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OPINION METER

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If you were to choose now, how would you vote on the initiative to allow the CNMI government to float a pension obligation bond?

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INSIDE



Shenanigans

Since she was 7, Bel Busby has dreamed about having her very own restaurant.

BUSINESS...Page 13



Deadly Floods

The death toll from landslides in China more than doubled to 702.

ASIA...Page 15



Fantasia is in stable condition after taking an overdose of "aspirin and a sleep aid."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

RFP to privatize CHC's radiology unit cancelled. PAGE 3
Palms Resort Saipan to undergo extensive renovations. PAGE 4

Fund breaks up with Merrill Lynch

» Names new investment consultant

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has selected Wilshire Associates Inc. as its new investment consultant, parting ways with Merrill Lynch, which has been the Fund's consultant for many years.

See FUND on Page 4

Fitial administration sees deficiencies in budget bill

» House holds off action on measure anew

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos and other

administration officials found deficiencies and disparities in the substitute Fiscal Year 2011 budget bill, keeping Inos and the House leadership in a closed-door meeting yesterday afternoon.

Inos, along with his legal counsel,

See BUDGET on Page 4



AT THE FISHING BASE

An employee at the Saipan Mayor's Office and two Workforce Investment Agency interns help dismantle the 2010 Liberation Day booths at the Garapan Fishing Base, days after the Department of Public Lands officially denied Saipan Mayor Donald Flores's request to use the site for its proposed community market that would make use of the temporary wooden structures used during the Liberation Day festivities.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The Department of Labor...remains largely absent from the scene and unavailable for guidance. The delays and problems created by this absence and the lack of information from your department are adding to people's anxiety and frustration.

—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP)



Kilili raps US Labor for lack of guidance

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has asked U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis to send a representative to the CNMI to provide guidance and address

concerns on federalization of immigration and related matters.

Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control on Nov. 28, 2009, requires U.S. Labor to perform certain functions such as deter-

See KILILI on Page 4



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Local

PSS net assets decline by \$7.2M in fiscal year 2009

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System's net assets dropped by \$7.2 million in fiscal year 2009 due to its growing unfunded retirement contributions, according to the latest independent audit report conducted on PSS.

As of the close of FY 2009, PSS net assets totaled \$79.2 million, an 8.3-percent decline compared to FY 2008's net assets of \$86.4 million.

In FY 2007, the system had \$89.6 million in total net assets.

"This decrease was primarily due to the accrual for

unfunded retirement contributions approximately \$8.1 million offset by the decrease in accrued and unpaid compensated absences," according to the 87-page report prepared by J. Scott Magliari & Co.

The audit showed that PSS had \$85.4 million in capital assets and \$2.9 million in restricted funds for capital improvement projects that were in progress. However, the system incurred \$9.1 million in unfunded liabilities, most of which were for retirement contributions, resulting in \$79.2 million total net assets for the fiscal year.

Besides the drop in net assets,

PSS' deficit also increased by \$6.1 million due to the accrual of unfunded retirement contributions, according to the report.

Net assets is an indicator of the fiscal health of the school system. The largest component of PSS net assets is invested in capital assets.

Revenues and expenses

The audit report also indicated that PSS posted a slight decrease in its revenues—from \$65.5 million in FY 2008 to \$64.7 million in FY 2009.

Revenues refer to directly generated earnings, and includes program revenues such

as federal grants, local donations, charges of services and indirect cost allocation. Appropriations, interest, and other income are also classified as revenues.

PSS was found to have spent more than what it had in its budget in FY 2009, with expenses totaling \$72.9 million compared to overall revenue of \$64.7 million.

These expenses included \$51.1 million for instruction; \$1.5 million, general administration; \$3.3 million, school administration; \$3.3 million, other support services; \$1 million, community; \$2.5 million, indi-

vidual programs; \$8.1 million, unfunded retirement contribution (unallocated); and \$1.8 million, depreciation (unallocated).

According to the report, PSS' total expenses in FY 2009 in-

creased by \$2.7 million, or 4 percent, compared to FY 2008's \$70.2 million. Expenses in FY 2007 totaled \$67.8 million.

The increase in expenses was primarily because of the increase in retirement contributions from 24 percent to 36.77 percent.

Medicare team visit expected soon

» **CHC says over 90 percent of citations resolved**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center expects a Medicare team to visit it anytime soon to validate the progress report the hospital submitted in May that outlined the steps taken to correct deficiencies at the hospital.

Esther Muña, acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, said, though, that Medicare, as part of procedures, does not announce its visits and inspections to health center and medical facilities under its jurisdiction.

Since January, however, CHC has continued to address all the citations, Muña said, describing the progress being made at the hospital at over 90 percent as of this week. The remaining 10 percent accounts for other concerns that are now being worked on, she added.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services conducted a complaint investigation survey against the hospital on Jan. 22 and uncovered serious deficiencies. The 112-page Statement of Deficiencies had determined

that CHC no longer meets the conditions of participation for hospitals in the Medicare program. The survey also detailed deficiencies in the hospital's nursing services.

Since the report came out, CHC has made great strides in improving its quality management, said Muña, and that they have contracted the services of a quality management services coordinator since March this year.

"The QM coordinator and quality management committee provided Medicare evidence of meetings where the quality of care given to patients were reviewed and monitored," said Muña.

CHC also developed and implemented a "Quality Management Plan Policy & Procedures" in May that enforces rules and procedures for quality care at the hospital.

Muña said she also issued a memo in April reminding hospital managers to submit key quality indicators to the QM coordinator.

Muñ said these key quality indicators were received from unit managers on April 16 and addressed the improvement of health outcomes; the identification and reduction of medical errors; and the improvements in patient safety.

Sutton wants to withdraw as counsel for detention guard

Attorney Loren A. Sutton has asked the federal court to allow him to withdraw as court-appointed counsel for Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial, a detention guard who is charged with using his position to force a female ward at the Kagman Juvenile Detention to engage in sex acts.

Sutton said Fitial doesn't want him anymore to be his counsel.

"His reasons are that he is disappointed and angry that he was not released on bail after his motion to modify conditions of bail was denied on August 4," Sutton said.

In addition, the lawyer said that Fitial perceived his (Sutton) expression to him and members of his family that the case is a difficult one and that he faces a lengthy jail sentence if convicted as an expression that "the case is a loser."

Sutton said he attempted to speak with Fitial about the case and to go over the evidence with him and to attempt to elicit facts

to be used in his defense, but Fitial won't converse with him.

He said Fitial would only state that he does not wish him to continue to represent him in the case.

"Under these circumstances it will not be possible for counsel to put together a defense case for trial or two discuss a possible non-trial disposition with the defendant," Sutton said.

The jury trial of Fitial was set for Oct. 18, 2010.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested the 24-year-old Fitial on June 11 after an indictment was filed against him in federal court charging him with one count of deprivation of rights under color of law.

The indictment alleged that around October 2009 through February 2010, Fitial coerced a child by means of force and threats to engage in sex acts while the minor was a ward at the Kagman Detention and Correctional Facility.

Fitial pleaded not guilty. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

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RFP to privatize CHC's radiology unit cancelled

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The long delayed privatization of the Commonwealth Health Center's radiology unit has hit another snag after the government cancelled the project's request for proposal despite the withdrawal of a bid protest.

Press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed yesterday the government's decision to cancel the RFP, saying it wants to expand the scope of services that should be offered by the winning bidder.

"Despite the withdrawal of the protest, the RFP for the

Big Boyz president: Termination was proper, lawful

Big Boyz Marine Sports Inc. president Masanari Yasuda asserted yesterday that his company had all the right to terminate the employment of a long-time maintenance repairer who had filed a complaint before the Department of Labor.

Yasuda told *Saipan Tribune* that he gave Gilbert I. Calalay many chances, but he kept repeating the same mistakes.

Yasuda showed his warning letter, memo, criminal cases and incident reports involving Calalay.

Yasuda said Calalay worked for 11 years instead of 13 years because there was a time when he left the CNMI due to his criminal case.

"While he was in the Philippines he kept on calling me to help him back to the island because his mother was very sick. On this reason I tried my best to help Calalay," he said.

Yasuda said he needs to protect his reputation as he has been on the island for more than 19 years. He is currently a member of the board of directors of the Japanese Association.

The Big Boyz Marine president said that Calalay raised false allegations against him, including the alleged withholding of his wages.

"These are false allegations," Yasuda said, pointing out that his staff kept calling Calalay for him to pick up his salary, but that he said he doesn't want.

Calalay, through the assistance of the Federal Ombudsman's Office, had asked Labor to hold Big Boyz Marine liable to pay him compensatory damages for wrongful termination and breach of contract.

The worker said Yasuda served him with a termination letter on July 29, 2010, after unfairly accusing him of stealing glass coating chemical.

Yasuda said their glass coating chemical is missing and that it's only Calalay who knows about it.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody conducted a mediation hearing last Monday. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

privatization of the radiology unit was subsequently canceled as the administration saw the need to revise the scope of services in the proposal. The administration seeks to amend the language to expand the services to be included in the privatization packet, such as the inclusion of [Magnetic Resonance Imaging] services," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Demapan said the decision is also in line with the administration's goals to further decrease the government's expenses for off-island medical referrals.

"At present, a large portion of our off-island medical referral expenses are for patients that have to be sent to Guam just for the purpose of undergoing an MRI," said Demapan.

He said changes to the request for proposal are now being formulated.

Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez was not available for comments when contacted yesterday.

The privatization contract was ready to be awarded as early as April this year to Dr. Nathaniel Berg of Guam but Joe Santos' Precision Medical Imaging LLC filed a protest in May, alleging that DPH failed to provide him all the necessary information about the project, resulting in him losing the bid. Santos believed his company would have won the contract if they were given the information

they were seeking.

A month later, however, Santos withdrew his protest for unknown reasons. Procurement and Supply officer Herman Sablan confirmed the protest's withdrawal.

CHC had then expected to go ahead with the awarding of the contract to Berg but the administration's decision to cancel the project RFP scotched that.

DPH has been in state of emergency since last year due to poor hospital services and lack of personnel.

The Fitial administration wants to outsource and privatize the Commonwealth Health Center to address decades-long problems plaguing the only hospital on island.

At present, the local government is also looking to the private sector to supplement public health care and had invited private clinics into the hospital.

Based on a 2009 survey, respondents highlighted the need to overhaul operation and approach to delivery of quality health care at CHC due to factors such as mismanagement, lack of physicians, inadequate procurement practices, and poor records and billing systems.



Demapan

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Palms Resort Saipan to undergo extensive renovations

» Several employees' contracts terminated

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Palms Resort Saipan is set to undergo

extensive renovations this year and, while that may be good news for the islands' tourism industry, it will also result in the layoff of many of the hotel's employees.

Saipan Tribune learned of this when the hotel's management relayed the in-

formation to its employees yesterday.

In a meeting called at about 3pm yesterday, top company officials informed all personnel that the facility will undergo an 18-month, \$20-million renovation starting Oct. 11 this year. The renovation will reportedly be han-

dled by Bodhi Dhama, a global hotel management company.

This renovation will close down the hotel beginning on that date.

Among the top officials who reportedly addressed the employees were Palms Resort president David Wickline and United Micronesian Development Association chair Jose Lifofoi. UMDA is the owner of the 14-floor hotel.

Palms Resort legal counsel Robert Torres refused to comment on the issue yesterday, saying a news briefing is scheduled for today to discuss the renovation plans and other issues.

Wickline was still in a meeting when contacted at his office at 6pm yesterday. He did not return this reporter's call.

It was learned that the employees were split into two groups yesterday and were separately addressed by hotel

officials that included members of the association board.

Employees who agreed to speak with the *Saipan Tribune* on the condition that they not be identified said the two groups of employees were issued differing letters regarding their employment status.

One group received notification that they will stay on as hotel employees during the renovation period; the other group got notices that their job contracts will be terminated 60 days after receipt.

Palms Resort has an estimated 100-plus employees. It was reported that about half of them received termination letters.

UMDA acquired the hotel, formerly known as the Hotel Nikko, in February 2008.

PAWS CORNER

Five puppies seek foster homes

PAWS has five puppies at Paradise Island Animal Hospital who desperately need a place to live for a few weeks.

PAWS said it is not asking anyone

to adopt these pups permanently, but just to foster them until the animal hospital gets back to full staff in September. PAWS said it will pay up to \$35 a month for food and care of these

fostered animals.

"Of course, these puppies are up for adoption if anyone is interested," the organization added.

Call the PAWS hotline at 285-PAWS (7297) if you can help out. (PAWS)

LIBRARY WORKSHOP

From left, Library and Information Literacy Initiatives director Jane Barnwell of the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, PREL research specialist Mathew Bellhouse-King, and Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales have their picture taken before the start of the Strategic Learning Communities workshop on Monday.

CLARISSA DAVID



KILILI

From Page 1

mining the prevailing wage for foreign workers, among other things.

"Despite repeated requests made by myself and my staff since this procedure was put in place, your department has yet to release to the public a detailed explanation of the procedure, nor have any personnel been sent to the CNMI to work with employers, workers, and others to explain the procedure," Sablan told Solis in an Aug. 10 letter.

The letter came six months after Jane Oates, U.S. Labor assistant secretary of Employment and Training Administration, told Sablan in a letter that CNMI employers are obligated to pay the prevailing wage to foreign workers in visa classifications requiring labor certifications—such as H visas—so as not to depress wages for U.S. workers.

Oates said employers are not required to conduct wage surveys.

Sablan, in his two-page letter, said he and his staff were told on numerous oc-

casions that at the least a contact number would be provided for employers, workers and others who have questions about procedures.

"To date, this has not been provided," Sablan told Solis.

The CNMI is also not among the jurisdictions listed on the Online Wage Database, and no existing prevailing wage determinations have been made public, he added.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business group in the CNMI with some 150 members, has also been waiting for guidance from U.S. Labor.

Sablan also furnished ranking members of the U.S. House of Representatives, the White House, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of the Interior with copies of his letter to Solis.

The delegate said the "frequently asked questions" and other information published in the Federal Register have not been widely distributed in the CNMI nor do they address the questions of most concern to CNMI residents.

"Finally, the contact numbers print-

ed on relevant forms and provided on your department's website are staffed by individuals who have no knowledge of the CNMI's unique circumstances and who cannot adequately respond to questions posed by callers from the CNMI," Sablan told Solis.

As a result, those with questions are turning to other federal officials on the ground in the CNMI, the CNMI Department of Labor, and other local officials, providing conflicting viewpoints on the subject.

"The Department of Labor, which is an integral participant in this transition process, remains largely absent from the scene and unavailable for guidance. The delays and problems created by this absence and the lack of information from your department are adding to people's anxiety and frustration," Sablan added.

The prevailing wage is different from—and is generally higher than—the minimum wage.

In the CNMI, the current minimum wage is \$4.55 an hour, and will increase by 50 cents every year until it reaches the federal wage floor of \$7.25 an hour.

FUND

From Page 1

Santa Monica, Calif.-based Wilshire Associates Inc. bested three other top candidates to secure the Fund contract via unanimous approval of the board of trustees. Besides Merrill Lynch, the other top contenders were Buck Consultants LLC and Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

There were originally eight applicants; the top four were selected for final interview and evaluation. The candidates were evaluated on the basis of cost, services offered, firm qualification and experience, and management and staff qualifications.

Wilshire, founded in 1972, advises 127 clients representing \$550 billion in assets

under its advisement, according to company information provided the Fund.

Fund acting administrator Richard Villagomez said he looks forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with Wilshire.

"While it is difficult to end a long-term successful relationship, such as the Fund has had with Merrill Lynch, the board has determined that Wilshire Associates is best positioned to assist the Fund through the challenging times ahead. The Fund looks forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with the new investment consultant," said Villagomez.

Fund board of trustees chair Sixto K. Igisomar lauded the services Merrill Lynch rendered for the Fund.

"We want to thank Merrill Lynch for all their years of valuable service to the Retirement Fund. The selection

was not an easy one to make; however, with the ever changing global market and the CNMI's economy, the board reasoned Wilshire and Associates' proposal was most responsive and addressed the Fund's current investment consultant needs," said Igisomar.

The Fund was prompted to look for a new investment consultant following a proposal by Merrill Lynch to increase the fees it charges the Fund.

Saipan Tribune learned that Merrill Lynch makes about \$150,000 per year in service fees from the Fund. The company wants to increase this to about \$180,000 a year.

Some CNMI retirees sued Merrill Lynch last year, alleging that it overcharged the Fund and gave "bad advice" to the trustees, resulting in millions of investment losses. The case is pending.

BUDGET

From Page 1

Teresa Kim, Management and Budget director Vicky Villagomez and press secretary Angel Demapan, met with House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and other members after the House session went into recess yesterday.

Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) pre-filed House Bill 17-96 on Friday and was set to introduce it in Monday's session but the House went into recess until Tuesday, and again on Wednesday. Session resumes this afternoon.

On Tuesday, the Fitial administration asked for more time to review the substitute budget bill. Yesterday, the House asked for a meeting with Inos.

Demapan said the Fitial administration, after reviewing the budget's latest version, discovered several deficiencies and disparities both in the language of certain provisions, as well as in the dollar figures.

"There were several figures that didn't add up right upon comparing the figures outlined in the bill in comparison to the appendix attached to the bill. So that was definitely an area of concern that acting governor Inos urged the members to rectify," he added.

The substitute bill adds \$143,715 to the Executive Branch, to make it a little over \$57.782 million. But this budget is still less than the almost \$64.739 million that the governor had asked for the Executive Branch.

Demapan said another contentious issue is that the governor's budget submission on April 1 "was crafted on the premises of government observing every Friday off—not every other Friday, as well as unpaid holidays."

"To deviate from this and only include one Friday per pay period and paid holidays will not result in any substantial deficit reduction," he said.

HB 17-96, House Substitute 1 reflects the governor's proposed \$132.565 million for the entire CNMI government operations in FY 2011 but gives agency appropriations different from the governor's submission.

House floor leader George Camacho (Cov-Saipan) and other House members said the Fitial administration asked for more time to review the budget bill yesterday, the same reason given on Tuesday.

But Demapan said Inos did not ask the House to hold off action on the budget bill yesterday despite the adminis-

tration's concerns on the latest version.

Demapan said it was the House leadership that asked for the meeting with Inos.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), who were among those who attended the closed-door meeting, said the administration and the Legislature are trying to settle differences in the budget bill.

Demapan said the Fitial administration also aired its "concerns on the rather large increase the lawmakers imposed on the budget for the legislative branch."

"However, that was definitely something that we expected...given the nature of the budget process," he said.

The substitute bill cuts the Legislative Bureau's \$1.78 million budget to \$1 million, and removes the maximum compensation of \$1 to the LB director. This was the reason why the Legislative Branch's appropriation changed from the original bill.

But the substitute bill retains the office account increase for each lawmaker—from the current \$70,000 to \$80,000 to \$155,000 a year. The speaker said the House is only reinstating the amount that lawmakers used to receive.

Still, House Minority Leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said lawmakers should be cognizant of the financial situation, especially when employees will be subject to work hour cuts.

Demapan said the Fitial administration's message has been consistent.

"Everyone should always be prepared. The past couple of months have definitely given everyone a rather clearer picture of the financial constraints we are experiencing. So we continue to encourage everyone to remain prepared. Many other countries are experiencing the same struggles, so this is the time to make the necessary adjustments in our daily routines," he said.

The substitute bill gives over \$9.115 million for all government utilities. This amount cannot be reprogrammed.

As part of restoring the governor's proposals for Rota and Tinian of over \$6.256 million each, the substitute bill sets aside \$340,000 for the salaries of nurses, medical technicians and other medical and auxiliary professionals on Tinian. This amount is also not reprogrammable.

Failure to pass a new budget by the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1 will shut down government operations as a result of last year's constitutional amendment.

HOUSE TO GUAM LEGISLATURE

'Reject the liquid fuel tax exemption measure'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Between Monday and Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed at least 15 bills and resolutions, including Rep. Frank Dela Cruz's resolution urging the Guam Legislature to reject Bill 429, which seeks to eliminate tax exemption on liquid fuels transshipped through Guam.

Bill 429-30, introduced by Guam Sen. Tom Ada, also seeks to create an environmental risk mitigation fund.

While applying the fuel tax to oil companies that use Guam as their transshipment center will generate additional funds for Guam, Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said that other islands such as Rota and Tinian in the CNMI,

the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau will be detrimentally affected by the resulting increased cost of fuel.

"With the continued economic decline throughout the region and the increased cost of living, it is necessary for Micronesian islands and governments to work together in these dire times," states House Resolution 17-18, which the House adopted on Monday.

The House resumes session this afternoon hoping to pass one of the most important pieces of legislation—the Fiscal Year 2011 budget bill.

In the past three days, the House adopted five resolutions and passed 10 bills, five of which are Senate bills.

Bills passed

■ Senate Bill 17-13, House Draft 1, seeks to allow the raising of Sambar deer or "binado" in captivity. The bill, introduced by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), passed on a 19-0 vote.

■ House Bill 17-59, House Draft 1, would require at least four members of the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents to possess a master's degree, and the remaining three members to possess a bachelor's degree. Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) introduced the bill, which passed on a 17-2 vote.

■ HB 17-77, HD1, seeks to pave the way for the Group Health and Life Insurance Program to negotiate a single life insurance policy coverage for government retirees and employees. Rep. Eli Cabrera's bill passed on an 18-0 vote.

■ HB 17-40, HD2, also introduced by Cabrera, passed on a

15-1 vote. It wants to increase business license fees by 100 to 5,900 percent, or from \$50 to \$1,000 for each license fee.

■ SB 17-28, introduced by Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), designates the House of Taga Park on Tinian as a Commonwealth historical site. It passed on an 18-0 vote.

■ SB 17-25, by Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), passed on an 18-0 vote. It establishes the Tatachog Beach Park pavilion on Rota as a cultural/arts center.

■ SB 17-32, by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), amends the law creating the Tinian Marine Reserve Area. The bill passed on an 18-0 vote.

■ SB 17-31, SD1 also passed on an 18-0 vote. Introduced by Hofschneider, the bill names the Natibu Park amphitheater on Tinian "the Antonio Manglona Borja Amphitheater."

■ HB 17-52, HD2 passed on a

14-4 vote. Torres's bill, which is also called the "Expungement Act of 2010," seeks to expunge the criminal records of certain individuals years after their conviction.

■ HB 17-66, HD1. On a 17-1 vote, the House overrode Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's veto of this bill, which seeks to reform CNMI election laws. Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan) introduced the bill, which now goes to the Senate.

Resolutions adopted

Besides HR 17-18, the House also adopted four other resolutions:

■ House Resolution 17-16, by Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), amends the Official Rules of Procedure of the House.

■ HR 17-17, requests the U.S. Department of Education secretary and the executive director of the Western Association of

Schools and Colleges to officially intervene in the show-cause sanction" action against NMC, that was created by the president of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, or the Legislature will seek legal remedy to support the CNMI's lone public college. Torres introduced this resolution.

■ House Commemorative Resolution 17-5, conveys condolences and sympathy to the family of the late U.S. Marine Corporal Dave Michael Santos, who was allegedly murdered in Afghanistan by a fellow Marine in July.

■ House Joint Resolution 17-6, HD1, also by Torres, encourages the participation and support of U.S. President Barack Obama, the U.S. departments of Energy and the Interior, and nuclear power generation manufacturers to assist the CNMI in using safe and modular nuclear "passive" power generators.

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Japanese government wary of loan for upgrades in Guam

By SATOSHI OGAWA
THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN

WASHINGTON—The Japanese government will most likely balk at providing a utility company in Guam with loans for a wastewater system upgrade project—a prerequisite for the planned transfer of U.S. Marines from Okinawa Prefecture to the South Pacific island—because the Guam firm, already heavily indebted, probably would be unable to repay the loans, The Yomiuri Shim-bun has learned.

As part of the 2006 Japan-U.S. agreement on relocating the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in the prefecture, the Japanese government agreed in principle to extend loans worth

\$740 million (about 63.2 billion yen) to help finance upgrades of Guam's infrastructure.

It has recently been brought to light, however, that there is a high possibility of loans for financing improvements in Guam's sewage system ending up in default, according to sources close to the Japanese government. Such loans would account for about 60 percent of the planned \$740 million in loans.

Because the envisioned wastewater disposal improvement project is expected to lose money, the loans for funding the project, if made, could wind up having to be covered by Japanese taxpayer money, the sources said on condition of anonymity.

As things stand, the Japanese

government will refuse to make the loans to fund the sewage project, the sources said.

Eight thousand U.S. marines stationed in Okinawa are to be transferred to Guam under the 2006 Japan-U.S. accord, and the move had been set to be carried out by 2014. But various factors have pushed the expected completion date to as far off as the end of 2020, the sources said.

Now, with the Japanese government reluctant to make the loans in question, signs are rising that the relocation could be delayed further, according to the sources.

Under the 2006 Tokyo-Washington agreement, the Japanese government promised to make loans worth \$740 million to utility operation entities in Guam to

improve the island's infrastructure, on the understanding that the repayment would be made via utility fees paid by U.S. military personnel on the island and Guam citizens.

A breakdown referred to in a final environmental impact assessment report the United States made public on July 27 went as follows:

■ Of the \$740 million in loans, \$415 million to \$435 million would be used for funding the sewage project.

■ \$160 million to \$165 million would go for tap water system improvement plans.

■ \$160 million to \$170 million would be for funding improvement of the island's electric power supply facilities.

The only entity in charge of

running water and wastewater systems on Guam, Guam Waterworks Authority, has been debt-stricken in its wastewater services, primarily due to low revenues from sewage bills, the U.S. government report said.

The report suggested that GWA would be unable to repay the sewage system-related portion of the loans, saying, "the ability of GWA to secure necessary funding 1/8 for the projects 3/8 remains a key concern and a potential impediment" to the marines' transfer plans to Guam.

In the event of GWA failing to secure the loans from the Japanese government, it would become inevitable for the U.S. Defense Department to "delay or not issue construction contracts ... until such time as the financing is received from the government of Japan," the report noted.

Such a development "would severely impact the construction pace and the ability of 1/8 the U.S. 3/8 Navy to complete required construction to

support the Marine Corps relocation" from Okinawa to Guam, the report said.

Commenting on the report, one Japanese government source said, "Loans, if carried out as currently planned, would hardly be collectible, and the government cannot help but refuse to make the loans."

The Japanese government is considering studying, in the process of the ongoing negotiations with the U.S. government, the feasibility of having sewage system operations undertaken by an entity other than GWA under some form of supervision by the Japanese government.

Prospects for realizing this option, however, are bleak, because no wastewater system improvement could be undertaken without using facilities owned by GWA, the sources said.

No breakthrough of the impasse is yet in sight, they said.

The U.S. side is scheduled to have the first phase of remodeling work on Guam's sewage systems launched in early January next year, but indications are that a delay in effecting the plan will be unavoidable.

Boat crew allegedly attacks co-worker with boat buoy

A man was seriously injured over the weekend after his co-worker allegedly attacked him with a boat buoy during a fight on a fishing vessel docked at Charlie Dock in Puerto Rico.

Medics brought Dasuo Luda to the Commonwealth Health Center after he was found lying on the floor and profusely bleeding.

Dannis Knorr, 41, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and aggravated assault and battery.

Detective Sean White stated in his report that the Department of Public Safety received

a report about a fight at a fishing vessel on Saturday at 12:41 a.m.

When White and a detective arrived at the scene, they saw the bloody Luda lying on the floor of the vessel.

Investigation showed that Luda and Knorr were drinking outside the boat and had an argument that escalated into a fight. Knorr allegedly grabbed a buoy and hit the victim with it repeatedly.

After Luda stopped moving, Knorr allegedly told the other boat's crew that the victim needed an ambulance. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES

Date Submitted: August 10, 2010

Date the announcement is to go on the NEWS:

August 12, 2010 and August 16, 2010

MESSAGE: Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Board of Parole, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", Notice hereby given that the Preliminary Hearing is scheduled to reconvene August 19, 2010, (Thursday) at 9:30 a.m., at the CNMI Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building Number 1216, Saipan. The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner:

A: Parolee

1. **RABAULIMAN, Jose O.** Cr. Cs. No.: 98-0083
BOP No.: 08-007

If you have any question or information, please call the Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman

August 10, 2010

Teams fail to locate missing fisherman

» Search for Jianke Li ends

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Search-and-rescue teams failed in the last day of efforts yesterday to locate the missing companion of a man who drowned at the Naftan Point in Obyan.

As of press time, teams from the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Office, the Emergency Management Office, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority were still conducting the search-and-rescue operation at the Naftan Point area.

It was not clear whether the U.S. Coast Guard's helicopter from Guam joined again in yesterday's search for Jianke Li, 39,

a Chinese national.

Acting police spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas told *Saipan Tribune* that the only reason they would continue the search is if they find some leads.

"But by the end of the day, if they will not find him or any leads, then they will just call it off," Blas said.

In addition, Blas said, the DPS Criminal Investigation Division's detectives have been talking with Li's family and friends for more information.

"They're trying to find out where he is. Did he come home or something like that," he said.

Li's companion, Sheng Jian, 32, also a Chinese national, drowned. Search and rescue teams recovered his body on Monday at 4:30pm.

Preliminary police investigation showed that Li and Jian

went to Naftan Point on Sunday at 8pm to do some cliff line fishing.

When they failed to return home, a family member of one of the victim reported the matter to DPS Monday morning.

DPS Boating Safety Section and Fire Search and Rescue Unit were then activated to begin a search along the cliff line and at sea in the Naftan Point area, behind the Hawaiian Rock Quarry.

Rescuers found Jian's body at 2:44pm on Monday at the bottom of the cliff line, where the two were reported to have been fishing. It took almost two hours for the teams to pull out the body from the water due to bad weather and terrain conditions.

The teams continued their operation on Tuesday and yesterday.

Northern Marianas College



The Northern Marianas College is currently accepting applications for the position of President. The President of the Northern Marianas College serves as the chief executive officer for the Board of Regents and oversees a multi-campus college system located in three separate islands (Saipan, main campus; Rota and Tinian). The President will report to the Board of Regents and will be expected to carry out the mission of the College:

The mission of Northern Marianas College shall be to provide the best quality and meaningful post secondary and adult educational opportunities for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the individual and for the Commonwealth as a whole. The College shall be responsible for providing education in the areas of adult and continuing education, post secondary and adult vocational education and professional development for the people of the Commonwealth.

Minimum Qualifications

Master's degree from a U.S. accredited university plus five (5) years of executive level management experience in an institution of higher education or other relevant organization, or a combination of at least five (5) years of executive level management including post-secondary education teaching experience; experience working in a multicultural environment; experience in accreditation process, personnel management, budget development and presentation, strategic planning, and institutional assessment, fundraising, mediation, and team building; and knowledge of federal programs and grants application in higher education.

Preference will be given to applicants that meet or exceed the following:

1. Doctoral degree holders in education administration or related fields from a US accredited institution (other terminal degree holders will be considered); and
2. Five years or more experience in an executive position in higher education administration or related fields; and
3. Three years or more of teaching experience in postsecondary education; and
4. Knowledge of technology used in higher education; and
5. Considerable experience with Asia-Pacific island cultures.

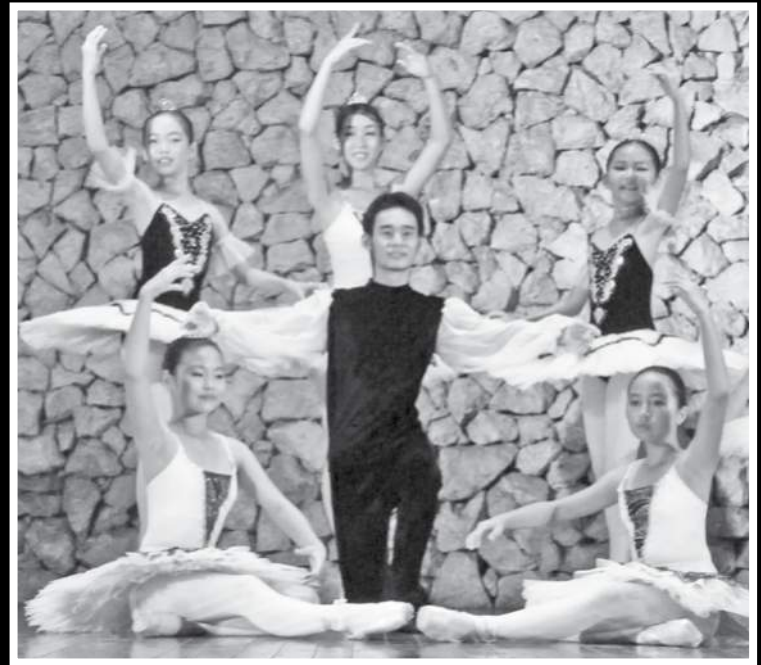
The salary for the position is \$80,000 per annum plus benefits. Applications will be reviewed immediately after the thirty days announcement. Applicants with non-U.S. degrees are responsible for providing an official evaluation of their degrees to determine U.S. equivalency.

Applicants should include a curriculum vitae indicating their competences in Organizational Strategy, Resource Management, Communication, Collaboration, College Advocacy, and Professionalism; official transcripts; list of published journal work or scholarly research; three personal and three professional references (complete with name, title, address, phone/email contact); and four letters of professional recommendations specific to this position. Complete application packages and documents should be sent by **certified priority mail** and must be received by the closing date of **AUGUST 31, 2010**, to:

Ms. Maria Paz Younis
Chairperson, Presidential Search Committee
Northern Marianas College (Attention: Human Resources Office)
P.O. Box 501250
Saipan, MP 96950

The committee reserves the option to extend the closing date if there are insufficient qualified applicants. For more information about this position announcement and about NMC, visit www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 ext. 1030.

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Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



EQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DPW10-RFP-009

ROUTE 100 (a.k.a. Chalan San Francisco De Borja) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, ROTA; CM-NH-0100 (003)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the **Route 100 (a.k.a. Chalan San Francisco De Borja) Environmental Assessment Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-305 (Architect-Engineer Services) of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **August 19, 2010** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **September 7, 2010**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **September 21, 2010**.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) – **25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) – **30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) – **25%**
4. Cost proposal – **20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW10-RFP-009"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **September 24, 2010**. Proposals located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **September 24, 2010** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 24, 2010** and must be received no later than **October 5, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section § 70-30.3-245.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

Parent files formal complaint against PSS

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The father of a child with special needs has formally filed a complaint against the Public School System for what he claims are unmet needs of his child.

Allan B. Vila, father of a 9-year-old child who has been diagnosed with autism, filed his complaint on Monday with the office of Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

According to the 11-page document, PSS continues to violate various requirements under Part B of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act and other laws.

Vila also alleged that he was denied access to records of his child as guaranteed under the IDEA.

PSS, according to Vila, also failed to provide enough number of speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, and other highly qualified teachers as required under the IDEA, the No Child Left Behind Act, and the CNMI's Commonwealth Autism Com-

mission Act of 2008.

Vila said the Individualized Educational Program for his child shows a need for a twice-a-month occupational therapy sessions and a session with a speech language pathologist.

He alleged that PSS failed to provide his child sessions with a speech language pathologist in December 2008.

He said his child was examined in October 2008 by a neurodevelopmental pediatrician in the Philippines, who found that the child exhibited impairment in social skills and impairment in communication skills and needs to avail of continuous occupational therapy sessions, special education intervention sessions, and continuous speech language sessions to help improve the child's communication skills.

Vila said there was specific recommendation for his child to undergo more language intervention programs but that PSS failed to do so.

Before filing the formal complaint, Vila had sought Sablan's help on the issue but he was not satisfied with the

"resolutions" she offered.

The case has been in the table for almost a year now since Vila raised his concerns in November 2009.

According to complaint, Vila said he was advised by the commissioner during his visit on July 26, 2010, to not

make fun of PSS.

"Contrary to [Sablan's] perception, complainant has no time to 'make fun of anyone' including the PSS because complainant is advancing a serious and genuine cause in the interest of his disabled child," the complaint stated.



Sablan



NEWS BRIEFS

DPS bans cell phone use, texting while driving

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela had issued a directive to all DPS employees banning the use of cell phone and texting usage while driving a DPS Government Vehicle, effective immediately.

Anyone found in violation of this directive will be subjected to disciplinary action, he said. (DPS)

Man in biggest 'ice' bust in NMI sentenced to 11 years

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, has announced that Biao Huang, age 26, was sentenced on Aug. 6, 2010, in the District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands to

135 months—11 years and three months—imprisonment and five years supervised release, for conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance and possession with intent to distribute.

The charges stem from a five-count indictment that charged Huang and Lian Sheng with selling a kilogram of "ice" to undercover agents in what is believed to be the largest methamphetamine bust in the history of the CNMI.

Huang's sentence of 135 months imprisonment in a Federal Correctional Institute will be followed by deportation.

This Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force case was prosecuted by assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto and investigated by agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 12, 1999

Teno backs Finance

While trying to avoid conflict with the Legislature, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday backed his finance officials over the wrangling on the use of funds allotted to each legislator. He said the House and the Senate must comply with the requirements when they need to draw down their accounts from the Department of Finance, such as filing their travel vouchers. "We don't want to interfere with the Legislature. We believe in the separation of power. But there's a requirement (to follow)," Tenorio told reporters when asked to comment on the growing dispute.

Court denies 'boat people's' motion to drop indictment

The US District Court turned down yesterday a motion filed by Chinese crew men seeking dismissal of their indictment on grounds that potential witnesses who they said could help their defense have been repatriated to China. In dismissing the motion, District Court Judge Alex Munson said the crew men had failed to convince the court that the repatriated aliens could actually provide testimonies favorable to their defense. At the same time, Munson cited a US Supreme Court jurisprudence supporting the government's decision to send back the undocumented aliens to China for "practical considerations."

Aug. 12, 2002

NMI to benefit from Rota aid

The federal aid that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will extend to Rota will benefit not only that particular island but also the entire Commonwealth. Rota Legislative Delegation Chair Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig disclosed this, saying that the federal aid would consist of three forms of assistance: public assistance, hazard mitigation grant program, and assistance classified as "others." Atalig explained that the hazard mitigation grant program is intended to address the present and future mitigation needs of the Commonwealth, so that steps could be done now to ensure that damage from future typhoons would be minimized.

EPA: NMI far ahead than Guam on landfill issue

There is one sure thing where Saipan is better compared to Guam: much progress has been attained to finally close the Puerto Rico dumpsite. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency intimated that the CNMI would most likely not face the same fate that Guam did, when the agency sued for the closure of the Ordot landfill that was reported to be polluting a river and two tributaries on the federal territory. The U.S. government also asked that monetary penalties, which would amount to millions of dollars, be imposed on the Guam government. Patricia Young, EPA Region 9's program manager for the CNMI and Palau who is based in San Francisco, said the Guam situation contrasts the solid waste problem on Saipan.

Aug. 12, 2003

Court junks motion to quash BoS plea

The Superior Court has denied the request of Commerce Secretary Fermin Atalig to junk Bank of Saipan's petition for judicial review on his decision last year to restrict the operations of the financial institution and have it placed under receivership, which contained statements about alleged mismanagement. Despite the argument of Atalig that the petition has become moot with the bank now in rehabilitation, Associate Judge David Wiseman effectively allowed the proceedings to push through. He said the findings of Atalig in his May 2002 administrative order could have lasting legal implications for the bank. "The receivership issues are completely moot, as stipulated by both parties. There does remain, however, the impact of the findings of the Director of Banking [Atalig]," Wiseman said.

CUC: Privatized power plant failed us

The privatized operations of Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico proved "unreliable" as shown in the recent power outages affecting a large portion of Saipan, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta, in her report to the CUC board Thursday, said that power outages could have been prevented had the power plant run at its expected capacity. "Power Plant IV, which is our first experiment at a 'coop of privatization' has failed us," said Babauta. The plant, which is run by Powerhouse Diesel, a local company, normally provides CUC with 10 MW but Babauta said it suddenly reduced its production to only five MW in late July, and further down to 3 MW early this month.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP No.: 2010-CDA-13-RFP**

CLOSING DATE: Friday, August 20, 2010 **TIME: 10:00 a.m.**

"INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

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PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **MANUEL A. SABLAN**
Executive Director

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-RDPL-147**

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 07, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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THE LESSOR MUST BE COMPLYING WITH PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A)-(D).

/s/ **OSCAR M. BABAUTA**
SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DCCA-148 (A) (B)**

BID SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 07, 2010 **TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

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/s/ **MELVIN L.O. FAISAO**
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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July 13, 2010

AMENDMENT NO. 01

CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN 2010 - 2015

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, wish to announce that the Program Year 2010 - 2015 Consolidated Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth. Comments may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is **August 13, 2010**, no later than 4:30 p.m.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

Application period for High Energy Cost Grant program is now open

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Agriculture undersecretary Dallas Tonsager announced yesterday that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for the High Energy Cost Grant program.

“Under this program, the funding awarded will improve energy generation, transmission and distribution facilities that serve extremely high energy cost rural areas—those with average home energy costs exceeding 275 percent of the national average,” Tonsager said.

In 2009, for example, USDA Rural Development awarded a \$1,081,392 grant to Maine School Administration District No. 58 (MSAD 58) in Franklin County. This rural area in Maine is heavily dependent on fuel oil for its heating needs. With funding provided by USDA, MSAD

58 partnered with Skanden Energy LLC, from San Diego, CA, to purchase and install wood pellet heating system to provide heat and hot water to the school buildings.

Grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$5 million will be awarded to businesses, non-profit entities, states, local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes. These grants will be used for on-grid and off-grid renewable energy projects serving eligible communities. USDA will award approximately 20 grants with the \$15.5 million provided through this notice of funding availability.

The application guide and more information on this program can be found at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/electric/hecg/index.htm> or the Aug. 9, 2010, *Federal Register*.

ON THE NET

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/electric/hecg/index.htm>

Applications are due Sept. 8, 2010. Funding for recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

Through its Rural Development mission area, USDA administers and manages more than 40 housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a network of 6,100 employees located in the nation's capital and 500 state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers, and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of nearly \$140 billion in loans and loan guarantees. **(USDA)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-053

“REHABILITATION OF THE DANDAN HEAD START PLAYGROUND FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM”

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Rehabilitation of the Dan Dan Head Start Playground for the CNMI Public School System** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Scope of Work is available beginning on August 12, 2010 at the Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$18.20.

There will be a Mandatory Site Visit on August 25, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., local time at **Dan Dan Head Start Center, Saipan, MP 96950**. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this site visit. Questions must be submitted in writing and addressed to Rommel Mostales, Acting CIP Coordinator via fax to (670) 664-3715 or e-mail to the following address: rommel.mostales@cnmipss.org not later than August 30, 2010.

Bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked “**IFB 10-053**” containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bid received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PSS RFP 10-092

“STRUCTURED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TANAPAG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL”

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in “**Providing Structured Professional Development for Tanapag Elementary School**”. The Scope of Work is available beginning Thursday, August 5, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Question may be faxed to Ms. Frances Ulloa, Principal, Tanapag Elementary School at (670) 664-3430 or e-mailed to frances.ulloa@cnmipss.org no later than August 20, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked “**RFP 10-092**” containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than 9:00 A.M. Friday, August 27, 2010. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NMHC RFP 2010-009

ARCHAEOLOGICAL-CONSULTANT SERVICES

This Ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairwoman of the Board, is soliciting the professional services of a qualified archaeological-consultant who meets Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology pursuant to 36CFR61 for the Carolinian Cultural Center in Saipan, for the benefit of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested proposers may pick up a copy of the Scope of Work on Monday, August 9, 2010 at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, Section 3-103. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

A. Requirements

1. Qualifications and experience of the proposer (35%);
2. Knowledge of federal and local laws pertaining to the excavation and/or findings of human remains, artifacts and archaeological survey documentation as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as well as compliance to the CNMI's Historic Resources Preservation Program (35%);
3. Experience with local CNMI and regional areas with respect to archaeological issues and findings (15%);
4. Existing and/or prior client base, type of archaeological services and copy of final report related to such experience/services (15%).

B. Cost/Contingent Fee

Price is also a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit of proposals. Technical merit is more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest priced proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase.

On **Friday, August 13, 2010**, NMHC and HPO will conduct a pre-proposal conference at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the project requirements. All interested proposers are encouraged to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference. Site visits will be arranged by NMHC and HPO staff after the pre-proposal conference to anyone who desires an on-site visit to the project site.

Interested proposers must submit an original and four (4) copies of signed, sealed proposals marked “**NMHC RFP2010 - 009 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT SERVICES**” to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, not later than **August 23, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.** Any proposals received after the above date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances, unless submitted by a proposer outside the Commonwealth and postmarked by August 23, 2010, **AND** received not later than September 3, 2010. In order to receive this additional time, proposers outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director, Procurement and Supply in writing not later than 10:00 a.m., August 23, 2010 of their intention to submit a proposal. Notice can be by e-mail to procurement@pricom.com or by fax to (670) 664-1515.

Discussions may be conducted with the responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the Procurement Regulation Section 3-301 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License in order to sign a contract.

Award shall be made to the responsible offerors whose proposals are determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation. Proposals shall be subject to rejection for conflicts of interests.

All proposals submitted shall become the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any defects in said proposals, to negotiate with all qualified offerors, or to cancel this RFP if it is in the best interest of NMHC and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

NMHC hereby notifies all proposers that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

/S/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Taliban way

We've learned a lot about the 10 medical aid workers who were ambushed by the Taliban in Afghanistan a few days ago.

How the aid workers trekked on foot with pack horses to a remote Afghanistan village. How they brought some of the first toothbrushes and eyeglasses that villagers had ever seen.

How much they believed in their mission, despite the dangers. And how they refused a security detail because they were on a charitable trip and...why would they need it? "They said they were doctors...and no one had anything against them," a local police chief said.

By now you know the appalling details: The Taliban marched the seven men and three women into the forest, lined them up and shot them.

Among the dead were six Americans, including Tom Little, a New York optometrist who had worked for years with the International Assistance Mission, which describes itself as a charitable non-profit Christian organization. And Karen Woo, a British surgeon who devoted herself to the arduous expedition even as she was planning her wedding.

A Taliban spokesman said the medical workers were spies. They weren't. They said the workers had been proselytizing. But these were veterans of Afghanistan who knew better than to do that.

It's a haunting story. It comes on the heels of a haunting image that appeared on a recent cover of Time Magazine. If you've seen it, you'll never forget it.

It's a portrait of an 18-year-old girl who was brutally disfigured. Her name is Aisha. At puberty, she was forcibly "married" to a Taliban fighter to settle a debt under a tribal custom. She was enslaved and beaten. She fled, but her husband tracked her down. A Taliban commander decreed the punishment: Aisha's husband sliced off her nose and ears. The men left Aisha on a mountainside to die.

Time magazine told Aisha's story under the provocative headline: "What Happens If We Leave Afghanistan."

That wasn't a question.

What happens if we leave Afghanistan to the Taliban is not in doubt.

Remember how the Taliban torched girls' schools to enforce a ban against educating females.

Remember how women who forgot to remove nail polish were flogged on the streets. How men whose beards were too short risked prison. How citizens could be jailed for six months for watching videos.

Remember how women accused of adultery were stoned to death.

Remember 19-year-old Gul Pecha and her fiancé, 21-year-old Abdul Aziz. They were bound, blindfolded and shot dead by a firing squad in public for the crime of...trying to elope.

Remember the Taliban provided a safe haven for al-Qaeda.

Taliban fighters threaten thousands of Afghans who dare to cooperate with the U.S.-backed Afghan government, who dare to vote, who dare to stand up for a freer democratic society or women's rights. They threaten women who dare to work outside the home.

Killing aid workers, disfiguring young girls, torching schools, threatening any who object to their brutal notion of justice. That's the Taliban way.

The Taliban insurgency is strong and resilient. We know exactly what to expect if the Taliban return to power.

(c) 2010, Chicago Tribune



The Anne Rice defection: It's the tip of the religious iceberg

By WILLIAM LOBDELL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Novelist Anne Rice's surprise post last week on Facebook—she announced she had quit Christianity “in the name of Christ” because she'd seen too much hypocrisy—brought cheers and smug smiles from critics of institutional faith, and criticism and soul-searching among believers.

But there's something more at play here than one of America's most famous Catholics—Rice re-embraced the faith of her youth in 1998 and published a memoir just two years ago, *Called Out of Darkness: A Spiritual Confession*—walking away from the church.

Rice is merely one of millions of Americans who have opted out of organized religion in recent years, making the unaffiliated category of faith the fastest-growing “religion” in America, according to a 2008 study by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

The Pew report found that one in six American adults was not affiliated with any particular faith. That number jumped to 25 percent for people ages 18 to 29. Moreover, most mainline Protestant denominations have for years experienced a net loss in members, and about 25 percent of cradle Catholics have left their childhood faith, the study showed.

And in a 2008 study by Trinity College researchers, 27 percent of Americans said they do not expect a religious funeral.

American Christianity is not well, and there's evidence to indicate that its condition is more critical than most realize—or at least want to admit.

Pollsters—most notably evangelical George Barna—have reported repeatedly that they can find little measurable difference between the moral behavior of churchgoers and the rest of American society. Barna has found that born-again Christians are more likely to divorce (an act strongly condemned by Jesus) than atheists and agnostics, and are more likely to be racist than other Americans.

And while evangelical adolescents overwhelmingly say they believe in abstaining from premarital sex, they are more likely to be sexually active—and at an earlier age—than peers who are mainline Protestants, Mormons or Jews, according to University of Texas researcher Mark Regnerus.

On the bright side, Barna's surveys show evangelicals (defined by Barna as a subset of born-again Christians, which he sees as a broader group with more flexible beliefs) do pledge far more money to charity, though 76 percent of them fail to give 10 percent of their income to the church as prescribed by their faith. Various studies show American Christians as a whole give away a miserly 3 percent or so of their income to the church or charity.

“Every day, the church is becoming more like the world it allegedly seeks to change,” Barna has said.

Barna isn't the only worried evangelical. Christian activist Ronald J. Sider writes in his book, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience*: “By their daily activity, most ‘Christians’ regularly commit treason. With their mouths they claim that Jesus is their Lord, but with their actions they demonstrate their allegiance to money, sex, and personal self-fulfillment.”

How to explain the Grand Canyon-sized gap between principles outlined in the Gospels and the behavior of believers? Christians typically, and rather lamely, respond that shortcomings of the followers of Jesus are simply evidence of man's inherent sinfulness.

But if one adheres to the principle of Occam's razor—that the simplest explanation is the most likely—there is another, more unsettling conclusion: that many people who call themselves Christian don't really believe, deep down, in the tenets of their faith. In other words, their actions reveal their true beliefs.

That might explain why Roman Catholic bishops leave predator priests in ministry to prey on more unsuspecting children. Or why churches on Sunday mornings are said to be the most segregated places in America. It also would explain why most Catholic women use birth control even though the practice is considered a mortal sin.

Culturally, America is still a Christian nation. The majority of us still attend church at least occasionally, celebrate Christmas and Easter, and pepper our conversations with “God bless you” and “I'll be praying for you.”

But judging by the behavior of most Christians, they've become secularists. And the sea of hypocrisy between Christian beliefs and actions is driving Americans away from the institutional church in record numbers.

Some, such as Anne Rice, are continuing their spiritual journey on their own, unable to reconcile the Gospel message with religious institutions covered with man's dirty fingerprints. Others have stopped believing in God. Those with awareness who remain Christians are scrambling to find ways, like St. Francis of Assisi, to rebuild God's church.

But remember, St. Francis offered a radical example during a time when the institutional church had grown corrupt and flabby. He was a wealthy young man who took a vow of poverty and devoted himself to the poor. His motto: “Preach the Gospel at all times—and when necessary use words.”

A well-informed hunch says American Christians aren't ready for the kind of reformation that will realign their actions with biblical mandates. And in the meantime, the exodus from the church will continue.

William Lobdell, a former Los Angeles Times staff writer, is the author of Losing My Religion: How I Lost My Faith Reporting on Religion in America—and Found Unexpected Peace.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Change your brain

Pentagon strategists have worried for over a decade that the development of a super missile would weaken America's dominant influence in East Asian waters. The recent revelation of a new "smart missile" developed by China has caused great concern for the U.S. and its naval carrier fleet.

What makes the missile so lethal is its accurate guidance system. It's reported that the Dong Feng 21D (DF-21D) missile can be launched from the land and hit a moving aircraft carrier 900 miles away. The Chinese have had missile technology, but their accuracy was ineffective until President Clinton sold them three Cray supercomputers as part of a trade deal, which the Chinese immediately used to develop their missile capability.

The news of the power of a self-correcting guidance mechanism awakens the half-century old knowledge of the power of our own internal guidance system. When Dr. Maxell Maltz published his groundbreaking book *Psycho-Cybernetics* in 1960, he provided further evidence of the mind-body connection to attain one's goals. As a cosmetic surgeon, Maltz was confused by the reaction of his patients after surgery. Even though he transformed their external looks to make them more beautiful, he found that their inner self-image was more powerful when it came to seeing the results of his work. In fact, many of his patients reported that they did not see any changes when they looked at themselves in the mirror. His research brought him to the realization that our limiting beliefs determine our actions and results; therefore, in order to change our lives, we must change our brain—or how we see ourselves in our mind's eye.

The term "cybernetic" comes from a Greek word, which literally means "the steersman." Like a missile guidance system, our biomechanical brain acts as a servomechanism to "steer" us toward the results we expect, and those results are determined by our strongly

held beliefs and values.

A cybernetic refers to a control-and-response mechanism to keep things in their comfort zone or on target. Using a missile as a metaphor, let's look at three aspects to our own servomechanism. This can be summarized by the acronym: RAS, for Result, Action, and Self-correcting. First, the **Result** must be known. You must identify the target or goal that you want to reach. For the DF-21D, the result would be to intercept and sink an aircraft carrier. For you, it might be to lose weight, make more money, or find romance. To lock onto your target and get the result you want, you must be clear about your objective or you must know what exact result you expect.

The next step is to take **Action**. A missile must have some type of propulsion system to move it in the general direction of the target. If your result is to reach a certain weight, then you must take some action such as eating better or exercising regularly. To make more money, you must take action by offering greater value to your employer or customers, and to find romance, you need to take action by meeting more people and socializing.

The third thing that must happen is to have an accurate guidance system that is **Self-correcting**. A guided missile requires ongoing feedback using a global positioning system, radar, sonar, or heat preceptors to relay its relationship to the target and determine any course correction. Individuals trying to lose weight use their sensory organs and external measures, such as a weight scale, measuring tape, or comments from others, to provide valuable feedback so they can stay on the correct course.

So if it is as easy as knowing your result, taking action, and self-correcting, why do so many people not achieve their goals? The reason is because you must have a self-image that sustains your efforts. Your brain must change how you see yourself in your mind's eye so that you establish a new comfort zone, or set point.

A simple cybernetic example is a thermostat that is used to maintain room temperature. If it is too hot the air conditioner kicks on and when the temperature drops below a certain standard, the heater

By RIK VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



turns on. Our psycho-cybernetic mechanism is a self-correcting autopilot that will always kick in to steer us back to the internal image and beliefs we have of ourselves. In other words, if you want to change on the outside, you must first change on the inside.

If your self-image sees yourself as fat, poor, or romantically challenged, then your behavior will align with your beliefs to ensure that you maintain that self-image. The reality is that you are none of these as long as you believe in yourself. So what if you're overweight now or you struggle financially? Your current reality does not have to be your future fate. You are a human being who is fully capable of changing your situation—if you believe you can.

For effective change to occur you must have a vision of what you want to become, and reinforce the beliefs that will turn your vision into reality. You must create a new comfort zone and new patterns of behavior in order to take sustained action toward your new self. You have the power to "reprogram" yourself for greater success and realize more empowering results.

A new discovery has revealed that neurogenesis, the process of making new brain cells, does not stop with adolescence, but continues throughout your life span. No matter what your age, you can change your brain by creating new neural pathways. Next week, I'll discuss how a small part of your brain, about the size of your little finger, is your key to open the doorway of your mind and truly change your brain.

Questions: Students, VAWA victims and the Sex Offender Registry

This week we will discuss two unrelated questions we have been asked in the past couple of weeks: (1) how and when an alien child can attend a U.S. school without a U.S. student visa, and (2) what happens to a green card applicant's application when she or he becomes the victim of domestic violence perpetrated by the U.S. citizen sponsor. We will also talk about the CNMI's new Sex Offender Registry.

Q: I am a U.S. citizen. My fiancée came to Saipan on a K-1 visa, and brought her teenage son on a K-2 dependent visa. We want to enroll the boy in school here. His K-2 visa expires next month. Do we have to get a U.S. student visa for him?

A: No, so long as you and your fiancée comply with the terms of her K-1 visa. The K-1 visa allowed your fiancée to travel to the U.S. to marry you; her dependent child was eligible for a K-2 visa, allowing him to accompany her. Under the terms of her K-1 visa, you must get married within 90 days after she arrived in the U.S. (in this case the CNMI).

There is a similar visa, K-3, for spouses of U.S. citizens who are outside the U.S., allowing the alien spouse and dependent children (K-4 visas) to enter the U.S. and remain while their green card applications are processed.

The Usual Path: Student Visa

Ordinarily, an alien student must obtain a U.S. student visa to attend a U.S. school. The process is relatively simple: First, find a school that will accept the student; the school must also be approved by the Student & Exchange Visitor Information System, SEVIS, part of the Student & Exchange Visitor Program run by the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration & Customs Enforcement. A list of SEVIS-approved schools in the CNMI can be found at <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/map/mp.htm>.

If the school is willing to enroll the student, the school will issue a Form I-20. The student and the student's parents then use that form as part of the student visa application, which is made through the U.S. Consulate in the student's home country.

A student who has a CNMI-issued student permit and an umbrella permit may continue to enroll in and attend schools approved by the CNMI Department of Commerce through Nov. 27, 2011. After that, the student will need to obtain a U.S. visa, unless the student fits into the kinds of exception discussed in this column.

Note that SEVIS has designated the CNMI Department of Commerce as its liaison for student visas. Therefore, Commerce may still be involved in U.S. student visa matters even after Nov. 27, 2011.

Exceptions for Nonimmigrant Dependent Visa Holders

Back to your question: There are certain children with nonimmigrant visas who are allowed to go to school in the U.S. without first obtaining a U.S. student visa and, in many of these cases, the school need not be SEVIS-approved. Actually, we counted 31 visa categories in which a child with a dependent visa (like your stepson's

K-2 visa) can attend grades K through 12, and 27 in which a child (unmarried dependent child under age 21) can attend college in the U.S. We found an excellent, comprehensive chart entitled "Dependent Children, Visa Status and Schools" on the web at <http://tinyurl.com/2bl72ql>. The website is sponsored by an organization called Immigration Road, which appears to be what it claims to be, an information center for immigrants. It is not, however, a U.S. government website, and we could find no equivalent chart on either the USCIS or Department of State Internet pages.

Remember that the child's ability to attend school without a U.S. student visa depends entirely on the child remaining in status. Your stepson's K-2 visa expires next month, but he will remain in legal status if (a) you and your fiancée get married and (b) you apply for green cards for both mother and child. The extension of his eligibility to go to school is automatic, and he does not need to get a separate student visa.

Detailed questions and answers about fiancé(e) K-1 and spousal K-2 visas can be found on the Department of State website, at <http://tinyurl.com/25b9mn>.

■ ■ ■

Q: My wife applied for a green card for me. We submitted all our documents and were scheduled for an immigration interview. A month before the interview, she attacked me at home and has been charged with aggravated assault. Can I go forward with my green card application?

A: Yes, you can. The Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA, applies equally to women and men. It also applies to alien children (including stepchildren) and parents of abusive U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. If your abusive spouse (or parent or child) filed a Form I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative), then you can file a Form I-360, the multipurpose self-petition form also used by several other classes of applicants, including widows and widowers.

The I-360 is filed with the USCIS Vermont Service Center, regardless of where the I-130 was filed. USCIS will preserve your original I-130 filing date, which may shorten your waiting time, especially if your abusive sponsor is a permanent resident rather than a U.S. citizen. Any other documents you originally filed will eventually be matched up with the I-360.

Keep in mind that you will have to prove the alleged abuse, although when there is a court case and/or police records that is usually not a problem. Also, you will still have to prove—as with any green card application—that you entered into the marriage in good faith.

You will also have to cancel that interview date—best done with a written explanation that you will be filing as a VAWA applicant instead.

The CNMI's Sex Offender Registry: A good start.

While we are on the subject of VAWA, we want to add our applause to the unveiling of the long-awaited Sex Offender Registry, on the web at <http://cnmi.nspw.gov/ConditionsOfUse.aspx>. Why are we writing about this in an immigration column? Because of what we

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and
BRUCE MAILMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years. Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

believe is the special vulnerability of immigrant spouses and children. In our July 15 column, "Crimes and Sponsors," we discussed the reasons a sponsor may be disqualified from applying for green cards for family members. One of the chief disqualifiers is a history of sexual offenses.

How do people considering marriage protect themselves against abusers? There is no perfect mechanism, but now that we have the Registry, a prospective spouse can look and see if there is an abusive skeleton in the fiancé(e)'s closet.

We are acutely aware of this problem. Just one example: one of our VAWA clients met a very nice-seeming young man, lived with and then married him—and then had to seek shelter when she caught him doing something improper with her young child. When we got his court records, we discovered that he had only been out of jail a few months when they met, that he had multiple sexual offense convictions and decades of probation in front of him. If the registry had been operating when these people met, the young woman we represent could have looked up her prospective husband—he's in there.

Our only complaint is that the Registry is still incomplete. In the case we mentioned, the abuser is in the overall "Geographical Search" listing for his home island, but he is not listed under the "Name Search" function. So if you do use the Registry, look in both sections.






Still, it's a major step forward in the effort to protect our community. Good work, DPS.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 74
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 89 ▼ 76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 55
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 74
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 74
London	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 56
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 56 ▼ 47
Miami	Showers	▲ 90 ▼ 79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 72
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 82
Paris	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 54
Pusan	Windy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Rome	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 70
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 51
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 96 ▼ 77

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:08 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet	
8:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
3:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
9:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southwestward from 25N146E to 15N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 250 miles southeast of the trough axis northwest of Saipan, Yap and Koror. Another surface trough extends southwestward from 8N145E to 3N140E. Scattered showers are found southeast of Yap and Koror within 60 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers west of Chuuk between 2N and 9N from 147E to 151E near Pohnpei between 2N and 8N from 156E to 161E and between Kosrae and Kwajalein and around Majuro between 6N to 9N from 161E to 178E. An upper low centered at 23N176E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northeast of Wake Island between 21N and 25N from 172E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:50 AM	8:16 PM
Friday	8:50 AM	9:00 PM
Saturday	9:49 AM	9:46 PM
Sunday	10:48 AM	10:33 PM
Monday	11:46 AM	11:22 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 4, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 3:20pm 5:55pm Daily DL289 4:35pm 7:10pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL290 9:45am 2:20pm Daily DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:10am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA DL640 7:40am 10:20am Daily	NAGOYA-SAIPAN DL641 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5	BEIJING-SAIPAN CA987 6:40pm 1:55am +1 4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:10pm Daily via NRT DL640/629 7:40am 10:35pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO C09603/933 3:05pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C09599/PR111 9:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/605 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN DL630/641 6:30am 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO DL172/288 7:40am 1:10am+1 Daily via NRT C0890/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:10pm 7:50am+1 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 9:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 10:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 200	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Shenanigans: A childhood dream comes true

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Do you remember what you envisioned back when you were just 7? Seven-year-old girls normally dream of living in impressive castles with their charming princes and have their own fairytale endings.



But for Bel Busby, she dreamed about having and managing her very own restaurant where she can whip up delectable dishes that diners would love best. After years of preparation and months of legwork, Busby's childhood dream came to fruition in February of this year with the

opening of Shenanigans, one of the most recent culinary ventures downtown.

According to Busby, Shenanigans serves international cuisines, mostly Italian and French-inspired, with a hint of other fares such as Indian dishes.

With its unfussy, no-nonsense interior filled with warm, natural light, Shenanigans makes an effort to strike a balance between that relaxed, informal intimacy with a charming grandeur.

But what's with the name? "I got the name from a comedy movie that my husband introduced to me," Busby chuckled.

She refers to the 2005 film *Waiting*, which stars Ryan Reynolds, Justin Long, and Anna Faris. The plot revolves around the lives of the people who work in a restaurant called Shenanigans, said Busby.

"It's a fun word so I thought of Shenanigans for the name of my restaurant," she added.

The name might be fun and amusing, but the folks at Shenanigans absolutely take food seriously and their premium dishes are intended to satisfy rather than amuse even the most discerning of palates.

In fact, Shenanigans already has a pool of regular patrons, having only been in business for a couple of months and relying only on informal methods of advertising. "We really have a big crowd during lunch time," said Busby.

Certainly worth trying is the Ceviche, the latest appetizer added in their menu. For \$12.95, one can enjoy the dainty slices of freshly caught fish textured with extra virgin olive oil, ginger, jalapeno, lime juice, and cilantro on fresh mango, tomato and avocado salsa served on



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Shenanigans is located next to Western Union in Garapan. For information or reservations, call Bel Busby at 233-8324.

crispy corn tortilla.

Have a taste of the Canneloni Al Forno, rolled pasta lavishly filled with ricotta cheese, ground beef, spinach, white wine and herbs, baked with white sauce, marinara, and mozzarella cheese and costs \$13.95.

Vegetarians can delight in their Tofu Lasagna, freshly baked pasta pleasingly interspersed with layers of tofu, spinach, mushroom, tomato sauce and fresh herbs for only \$10.95.

Satisfy your sweet tooth with their roster of supremely comforting desserts, which includes Mascarpone Cheesecake smothered with rich blueberry sauce or the beloved Tiramisu at \$5 per slice.

Busby told *Saipan Tribune* that things are going well for the business, as all items in their menu are constantly moving, a great indication that the public really loves their food.

Shenanigans takes pride in their food not only because it satisfies even the most discerning of palates but also in its meticulous and very artful presentation, thanks to their chef who came from Coffee Care, another popular resto in town, where Busby used to be a bartender.

"We've been friends for a long time and we've been talking about having our own restaurant. So when our former boss passed away, we decided to get together again and create our own restaurant," narrated Busby.

Shenanigans has about 16 friendly staff who are ready to welcome its patrons with friendly and reliable service during breakfast, lunch dinner.

Breakfast is available only on weekends, from 7am to 2pm, with an array of omelets, crepes, and other sunup food choices. Avail of their classic mix and

match of all-time breakfast favorites, whether you go for two, three or four choices, all served with toast and house coffee.

Lunch is served from 10:30am to 2:30pm, with a variety of everyday specials. Dinner is served starting at 5:30pm.

Shenanigans also started to offer skillfully blended cocktails especially for their evening diners who opt to start dinner with a smooth concoction of alcoholic or nonalcoholic beverages.

Busby said they also do caterings for functions and parties and is also planning on doing deliveries in the future.

Shenanigans can be a haven for the local clientele who are in the lookout for another trend place in town. "I am sure that if you try our food, even just once, I'm sure you will love it. You won't be disappointed. That's a promise," assured Busby.

\$1.6B in 2010 Census savings

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke announced that the Commerce Department's U.S. Census Bureau is returning \$1.6 billion in 2010 Census operational savings.

In the first full year of Census management by Obama administration officials and in a time of tightened federal resources, the Census came in 22 percent under budget. The savings occurred primarily because contingency funding set aside for disasters or major operational failures was not tapped and because the Census questionnaire mail-back response rate and workforce productivity across field operations both beat expectations.

In the years leading up to the 2010 Census, operations had been beset by a costly IT systems development. Upon taking office in 2009, Locke and Census Bureau Director Robert Groves heard warnings from Congress and Census watchdogs about the many high-risk operational challenges ahead and about the numerous systems failures in the years preceding the 2010 count. Importantly, response rates to surveys had

been declining for years, and if that trend had held true for this decade's census, it would have added hundreds of millions to the cost of the door-to-door follow-up effort.

"In early 2009, the 2010 Census was in need of top-notch operational and fiscal management," Locke said. "The Census is a massive undertaking with great risk for operational problems and cost overruns. We appointed Dr. Groves to execute the 2010 Census with a directive to run a successful, non-partisan Census that counted everyone. Just as importantly, the President and I directed Dr. Groves to run a comprehensive review of the Census plan and find ways to cut costs and enumerate the population more efficiently. Over the last 17 months, we have worked tirelessly to ensure American tax dollars were being spent wisely."

"With proficient management, the cooperation of the American public and a little bit of luck, the Census stayed on track with significant cost savings to taxpayers," Locke added.

The savings represent 22 percent of 2010 Census costs this fiscal year. (PR)

Smart Money Seminars set Aug. 18 on Saipan and Palau

Bank of Hawaii will be conducting Smart Money Seminars on Saipan and in Palau on Aug. 18.

The Smart Money Seminar in Saipan will be held at BoH's Garapan branch along Pale Arnold Rd. in Puerto Rico from 5:30pm



to 6:30pm. The presenters are Joanne Aldan and Rose Sumor. The Palau seminar, meanwhile, will be conducted by Richard Ziegler at the bank's Koror branch and will be from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Smart Money Seminars help companies and aspiring busi-

nesses come up with a comprehensive and well-thought out business plan. BoH expects attendees to learn the importance of having a business plan, the components of a good business plan, and how to put plans into action.

The bank's Smart Money Seminars are held as a community service throughout the year. They are free and open to anyone to attend.

For more information, visit www.boh.com/pacificseminars. (BoH)

Four Marianas-based companies awarded contracts

Four companies based in the Marianas were awarded an indefinite-delivery indefinite-quantity, multiple award construction contract by Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded last week.

All four firms—DF Joint Venture of Dededo, Guam; Fargo Pacific, Inc. of Hagatna, Guam; Guam Pacific International, LLC of Barrigada, Guam; and Techni-Con, Inc. of Tamuning, Guam—are Small Business Administration-certified 8(a) companies.

The 8(a) MACC provides a

contracting vehicle with a capacity to award up to a combined total of \$100 million in contracts for renovations, modernization, and routine repair and maintenance of government shore-based facilities in Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands.

Two other 8 (a) MACC-compliant companies—GSI-ASI JV LLC, Honolulu of Hawaii and Chugach World Services, Inc. of Anchorage, Alaska—were awarded NAVFAC contracts.

"This contracting vehicle demonstrates our strong commitment to making federal con-

tracting opportunities available to socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs," said NAVFAC Marianas Commanding Officer Capt. Peter Lynch. "In addition, it is another tool in our acquisition tool-box that will allow NAVFAC Marianas to maintain timely and efficient response to current and emergent mission critical requirements of our supported commands."

Under the terms of the contract, the first task order, worth \$188,141, is being awarded to Techni-Con, Inc. for the construction and

improvement of the existing parking lot of the NEX Autoport/Furniture Store on Naval Base Guam. Work for this task order is expected to be completed in January 2011.

The 8(a) MACC award includes a 12-month base period and four one-year option periods. The term is not to exceed 60 months, with an expected completion date of August 2015. This contract was competitively procured via the Navy Electronic Commerce Online Web site, with 21 proposals received. (PR)

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

10,644.25
-54.40
-0.51%

S&P

1,121.06
-6.73
-0.60%

NASDAQ

2,277.17
-28.52
-1.24%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.1075
British Pound	0.6333
Canadian Dollar	1.0369
Chinese Yuan	6.7745
Euro	0.7663

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7658
Indian Rupee	46.5950
Indonesian Rupiah	8,985.5
Japanese Yen	85.1250
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1685
New Zealand Dollar	1.3921

Philippine Peso	45.1950
Singapore Dollar	1.3595
South Korean Won	1,160.5
Swiss Franc	1.0555
Taiwan Dollar	31.8335
Thailand Baht	31.9500

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Skeletal remains believed to be missing Ariz. boy

RIMROCK, Ariz. (AP)—Authorities believe skeletal remains found Tuesday near a central Arizona campground are that of a toddler reported missing in the area more than two weeks ago. The remains were found at the bottom of a wash less than 2 miles from the Beaver Creek Campground, where 2-year-old Sylar Newton was last seen the night of July 24, Yavapai County sheriff's spokesman Dwight D'Evelyn said. The body likely came to a rest there because of recent flash flooding, D'Evelyn said. He had no further details, such as cause of death, but an autopsy will be conducted. It's the second time this month that a 2-year-old boy has been found dead in Yavapai County, but authorities say the cases are unrelated. The body of Emmett Trap was found in a mine pit Aug. 4, two days after he wandered away from home.

NY police find live cat 'marinating' in car trunk

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Police say a traffic stop led to animal cruelty charges after they found a live cat "marinating" in oil and peppers in the trunk of a car. Buffalo police say officers heard the cat meowing when they stopped 51-year-old Gary Korkuc of Cheektowaga to ticket him for running a stop sign Sunday night. They say they checked the trunk and found 4-year-old Navarro in a cage, his fur covered with oil, crushed red peppers and chili peppers. Police say Korkuc told them he did it because Navarro was ill-tempered. Korkuc was charged with cruelty and released; his phone number isn't listed. Police say he told them he was going to cook Navarro. Korkuc also told officers a number of things that didn't make sense, including that his neutered male cat was pregnant. Animal advocates have cleaned Navarro and put him up for adoption.

3 dead and 12 hurt in tourist bus crash in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A tour bus careened off a Utah highway and rolled over, killing three Japanese tourists and injuring 11 others after the driver lost control of the vehicle, authorities said Tuesday. The driver of the tour bus, who received minor injuries, was distracted or drowsy when he lost control of the bus Monday evening just outside Cedar City, the Utah Highway Patrol said. Half of the 14 passengers in the Japanese tour group were flown in critical condition to hospitals in the Salt Lake City area, 250 miles away, including a 14-year girl from Osaka, Japan, according to authorities and a tour company. One hospital spokesman said doctors used a telephone interpreter service to communicate with the injured passengers.

Hunt for suspected serial killer hits 3 states

DETROIT (AP)—Tony Leno was taking a smoking break outside the Toledo, Ohio, church where he works when a tall, muscular white man pulled over in his Chevy Blazer, got out and asked him for directions. As the 59-year-old custodian turned to point the way, the stranger—apparently without word or warning—stabbed him twice in the abdomen, got back into his vehicle and drove off into the night. Authorities say they're not certain, but they strongly suspect the assailant is a serial killer who has attacked 20 men in Michigan, Ohio and Virginia since May, killing five and wounding others, including Leno, who remains hospitalized in critical condition.

Former Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens dies in plane crash

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—A single-engine plane carrying former Sen. Ted Stevens crashed into a remote Alaska mountainside, killing the state's most beloved political figure and four others and stranding the survivors on brush-and-rock-covered slopes overnight until rescuers could reach them.

Volunteers discovered the wreckage late Monday and tended to the injured, including Stevens' fishing buddy, ex-NASA chief Sean O'Keefe, until help could arrive Tuesday.

The 86-year-old Stevens' death stunned both lawmakers and residents alike, even in a state familiar with plane crashes, because of his pre-eminence in Alaska history: A decorated World War II pilot who survived a deadly 1978 plane crash, he was the longest-serving GOP senator in history and spent his 40-year Senate career bringing billions of federal dollars home. One failed effort—the infamous "Bridge to Nowhere"—became part of his national legacy, as did convictions that helped foil his 2008 campaign but were later tossed out.

"He is one of the real giants," said Paul Brown, a consultant to nonprofits who was having lunch at an outdoor cafe in Anchorage. "He dedicated his life to this state."

Investigators arrived late Tuesday at the crash site outside Dillingham,



In this Aug. 4, 2008 file photo, Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, speaks in Anchorage, Alaska, announcing that he is running for re-election.

located on Bristol Bay about 325 miles southwest of Anchorage. The cause of the crash was not immediately known, but the flights at Dillingham are often perilous through the mountains, even in good weather.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Mike Fergus said the plane, a 1957 DeHavilland DHC-3T registered to Anchorage-based General Communications Inc., took off at 2 p.m. Monday from a GCI

corporate site on Lake Nerka, heading to the Agulowak Lodge on Lake Aleknagik.

He said the plane was flying by visual flight rules, and was not required to file a flight plan.

Flight attendant's grand exit draws charges and fans

NEW YORK (AP)—No fed-up worker has ever said "I've had it" quite like c.

Prosecutors say the JetBlue flight attendant flipped out over a fight with an agitated traveler Monday, cursing over the intercom before grabbing some beer from the plane's galley and making a grand exit down the emergency slide at Kennedy Airport. He has been charged with felonies but elevated to folk-hero status by thousands who shrugged off allegations that Slater endangered others and praised him for his take-this-job-and-shove-it moment.

Winners: Wrestling's McMahon, Colorado's Bennet

WASHINGTON (AP)—Appointed Sen. Michael Bennet won the Democratic nomination to a full term in Colorado Tuesday night, overcoming a fierce primary challenge at home and an outbreak of anti-establishment fever nationwide. In Connecticut, Linda McMahon easily captured the Republican Senate primary to join the slate of outsider-candidates who will carry the GOP banner this fall.

Bennet will face prosecutor Ken Buck, the winner of a tight GOP primary, in a race that Republicans need to win this fall if they are to challenge Democrats for control of the Senate.

McMahon, former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, will begin the general election campaign as an underdog in her race with Democratic attorney general Richard Blumenthal. He had no primary opposition.

On a four-state primary night, former Rep. Nathan Deal led ex-Secretary of State Karen Handel narrowly in a Republican gubernatorial runoff in Georgia that was so close it could take days to resolve. The two vied for the right to take on former Democratic Gov. Roy Barnes, who unleashed the first television ad of the fall campaign before the polls had closed.

Slater, whose father was an airline pilot, wore a slight smile Tuesday as he was led into a Queens courtroom to be arraigned on charges of criminal mischief, reckless endangerment and trespassing, counts that carry a maximum penalty of seven years in prison. The judge set his bail at \$2,500, which remained unpaid late Tuesday afternoon.

The 38-year-old airline veteran, who lives steps from the beach in Queens a few miles from the airport, had been flying long enough

to see much of the gleam of the air travel experience tarnished by frayed nerves, rising fees, plummeting airline profits and packed cabins.

"One by one all of these niceties have been removed from the customer experience. I think subconsciously, it's causing passengers to be very angry," said Pauline Frommer, creator of the Pauline Frommer Guides and daughter of Arthur Frommer. "There's an us-versus-them mentality."

Sentiment online appeared to fall



Slater

Rangel: 'Don't leave me swinging in the wind'

WASHINGTON (AP)—A combative Rep. Charles Rangel told the House on Tuesday he's not resigning despite 13 charges of wrongdoing and demanded the ethics committee not leave him "swinging in the wind."

Rangel, who is 80, spoke without notes in an extraordinary, often emotional 37-minute speech that defied his lawyers' advice to keep quiet about his case.

The New York Democrat and 40-year House veteran had a sharp message in dismissing fellow Democrats who, worried about election losses, want him to quit: "If I can't get my dignity back here, then fire your best shot in getting rid of me through expulsion."

Expulsion is the harshest penalty that can result from an ethics case. It would be highly unlikely in Rangel's case because the former chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee is not accused of corruption. The four-member ethics panel that investigated Rangel suggested a

in Slater's court. By early Tuesday afternoon, more than 20,000 people had declared themselves supporters of Slater on Facebook, and the number was growing by thousands every hour. At least one fan set up a legal fund on his behalf.

"Overwhelmingly people said it should have been the passenger who was ejected from the plane," said George Hobica, founder of AirfareWatchdog.com, speaking about response to his site's blog on the incident. "I've never seen such an outpouring of support for a flight attendant."

reprimand, a statement of wrongdoing voted by the House, but that is only a recommendation to the ethics committee.

Several hours after Rangel spoke from the front of a half-full House chamber, Speaker Nancy Pelosi made clear in a written statement that she wasn't pleased with the congressman's choice of venue.

"As I have repeatedly stated, the independent, bipartisan ethics committee is the proper arena for ethics matters to be discussed," she said. "The process is moving forward in a way that will ensure that the highest ethical standards are upheld in the House of Representatives."

Pelosi faces the possibility of the House losing its majority in November. The Rangel ethics case isn't helping, nor are unrelated charges that Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., improperly tried to help a bank where her husband had a financial interest. Waters is a senior member of the Financial Services Committee.

Asia

China landslide toll rises to 700; Pakistanis flee

ZHOUQU, China (AP)—The death toll from landslides in northwestern China more than doubled to 702 Tuesday, as rescue crews in three Asian countries struggled to reach survivors from flooding that has imperiled millions.

Rescuers digging by hand through mud found a 52-year-old man who had been trapped for more than 50 hours inside a leveled apartment building in the remote town of Zhouqu, where more than 1,000 other people were still listed as missing. Rescuers with sniffer dogs discovered the man, Liu Ma Shindan, who was weak but breathing normally.

Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari returned home to a storm of criticism after visiting Europe as his country was gripped by the worst floods in its history. His arrival Tuesday came as thousands of people fled a major city in central Pakistan as rivers threatened to submerge the area.

And rescuers in the desert mountainsides in Indian-controlled Kashmir recovered more bodies, with the death toll rising to 165 from flash floods. Thousands of army and paramilitary soldiers continued clearing roads and removing the debris of hundreds of homes flattened in the Ladakh region.

About 200 remained missing around Ladakh, said Lt. Col. J. S. Brar, an army spokesman. With the road links being restored, nearly 300 people who fled to higher ground have returned to their homes, he said.

The disaster in China's Gansu province was caused when a debris-blocked swollen river burst, swamping entire mountain villages in the county seat of Zhouqu.

Tian Baozhong, the director of civil affairs in Gansu province, said the death toll now stood at 702, up from 337 on Monday.

Another survivor, Yang Zhukai, began the sad task of making simple coffins for the 10 to 20 relatives killed by the mudslide.

"These are all for relatives, for relatives killed by the mudslide. It was so unexpected—a huge landslide like this. There's nothing left. We managed to escape with our lives. As far as relatives, 10 to 20 died from my village," he told Associated Press Television News.

Throughout the area, bodies were seen wrapped in blankets and tied to sticks or placed on planks and left on the shattered streets for pickup.

The ruling Communist Party's

all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee met early Tuesday to discuss rescue and relief work, a move that will likely free up even more resources.

"It is now a critical time for disaster relief and rescue work. We must give the highest prominence to the protection of people's lives and properties," the committee said in a statement.

The government said 1,042 were missing and about 45,000 were evacuated. It was not known how many of the missing were in danger or simply out of contact as workers rushed to restore communications.

More rain is expected in the region in coming days, the China Meteorological Administration said. Tents, blankets, food and water were all being rushed to the isolated area, creating traffic jams on the few roads in.

Flooding in China has killed about 1,800 people this year and caused tens of billions of dollars in damage across 28 provinces and regions.



Rescue workers search for victims after a mud slide swept into the town of Zhouqu in Gannan prefecture of northwestern China's Gansu province, Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2010.

Report: RP Muslim rebels brace for war

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Hundreds of Muslim guerrillas have undergone combat training and sought more weapons in the southern Philippines to bolster their military muscle in case planned peace talks with the government falter, a military report said Wednesday.

New President Benigno Aquino III and the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front have expressed readiness to resume Malaysian-brokered peace negotiations as early as September after the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. The talks collapsed in 2008, sparking massive fighting, and resumed in the final months of Aquino's predecessor without reaching any major accord.

Aquino, who succeeded Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on June 30, has said efforts to

turn around his impoverished Southeast Asian nation will be futile if it continues to be wracked by violent insurgencies. He has begun forming negotiation teams to resume talks with the Moro rebels and communist guerrillas.

While fresh talks loomed, the military has monitored at least nine separate combat training by hundreds of Muslim fighters and recruits in their strongholds in southern Mindanao region in the first half of the year, according to a military report that assessed national security threats. A copy of the report was seen by The Associated Press.

Muslim guerrillas have been holding combat training and "acquisition of logistics to ensure readiness if the peace talks will not prosper," according

to the report, adding the rebels plan to intensify kidnappings and extortion to gain funds.

About 230 rebels underwent training on combat tactics for three days last March in a hinterland camp called Palestine near Butig township in Lanao del Sur province. Several guerrillas joined a monthlong training on intelligence-gathering in the same camp that month while 247 regular fighters were trained on "rigid jungle warfare" for 15 days in the southernmost province of Tawi Tawi, the report said.

About a hundred recruits were given basic military training for three months in Lanao del Sur starting in March. Other training involving an undetermined number of rebels focused on first aid and leadership, it said.

US aid winning friends in flood-ravaged Pakistan

KALAM, Pakistan (AP)—U.S. Army choppers carrying emergency food and water buzzed over the swollen river and washed-out bridges, landing in the valley once controlled by the Taliban. They returned laden with grateful Pakistani flood survivors—newly won friends in a country where many regard America as the No. 1 enemy.

With Pakistan reeling from two weeks of flooding that has killed 1,500 and affected nearly 14 million people, the aid and rescue mission by the U.S. military gives Washington a chance to strengthen a sometimes troubled alliance that is crucial to fighting militancy in the region and ensuring a stable Afghanistan.

Besides helping those trapped by the high water, the U.S. assistance already is having another effect: The Pakistani Taliban denounced it and urged a

boycott of Western aid.

Other U.S. relief missions to disasters in the Muslim world—including the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir and the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia—were credited with improving the image of the United States, at least in the short term.

Now, as U.S. troops work side by side with Pakistani forces, the mission may relieve some pressure on the civilian government in Islamabad. President Asif Ali Zardari, who returned Tuesday to Pakistan, has been criticized for being abroad since Aug. 1, amid one of the worst natural disasters in his country's history.

The United Nations said hundreds of millions of dollars in international assistance would be needed. In Washington, the State Department announced an additional \$20 million in flood relief, bringing the total U.S. aid

in the crisis to \$55 million.

A spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban, which has attacked international aid workers in the past and has long opposed foreign assistance, said it would fund relief efforts.

The foreign aid "is deceiving the nation. It will not reach the affected people, but will be pocketed by corrupt rulers," Azam Tariq told The Associated Press by telephone, adding the disaster was God's punishment to Pakistanis for accepting secular leaders.

Highlighting the stakes for Pakistan and the United States is the quick work in badly affected areas by hard-line Islamist charities, including one with alleged militant links. With civilian authorities overwhelmed, concerns are rising the disaster will build support for the extremists, and perhaps even undo recent security gains.

Deadly mudslides



ASIAN BRIEFS

RP searches for 10 missing fishermen

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The coast guard says it is searching for 10 fishermen whose boat sank in rough seas in the central Philippines. One of the men was able to call his sister for help from their half-submerged boat late Tuesday to say that their boat was sinking off central Antique province's Anini-y township. The coast guard said in a report Wednesday that it has sent a ship to carry out search and rescue operations and has told nearby vessels to be on the lookout for the fishermen. There was no storm at the time of the incident, but the coast guard said the boat encountered "unfavorable" weather and sea conditions while en route from central Leyte province to southwestern Palawan island.

2 Muslim Malaysians on trial deny torching church

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Two Malaysian Muslims testified in court Tuesday to deny charges that they torched a Christian church in an incident that set off a string of assaults on places of worship early this year. The firebombing of the church raised religious tensions in this Muslim-majority country last January following a court

verdict that allowed Christians to use the word "Allah" in Malay-language publications. The verdict angered some Muslims and became the apparent trigger for an unprecedented series of arson attacks and vandalism at 11 churches. A Sikh temple, three mosques and two Muslim prayer rooms were also attacked, but tensions abated after authorities bolstered security at places of worship and called for calm.

Magnitude 6 earthquake shakes Vanuatu: No damage

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The U.S. Geological Survey says a magnitude 6 earthquake has shaken Vanuatu—a day after a stronger quake off the South Pacific island nation generated a small tsunami. The Wednesday quake was too small to cause a tsunami and there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. A statement says the quake's epicenter was 46 miles (73 kilometers) northwest of the capital Port Vila and 25 miles (41 kilometers) deep. A powerful 7.5 magnitude quake off Vanuatu on Tuesday generated a small tsunami, shook buildings and brought down power lines. There was no major damage or serious injuries.

World

Mexican president open to change in drug strategy

MEXICO CITY (AP)—President Felipe Calderon said Tuesday he is willing to change Mexico's drug-war strategy and promised a new offensive against money laundering after hearing blistering criticism from opposition leaders.

Calderon's drug-war talks, the latest session with leaders of most of the country's opposition political parties, come as the government offensive against drug cartels is drawing more criticism. More than 28,000 people have died in drug-related violence since Calderon launched the offensive in late 2006, sending thousands of troops to drug hot spots.

"I know that the strategy has been questioned, and my administration is more than willing to revise, strengthen or change it if needed," Calderon said at the meeting. "What I ask, simply, is for clear ideas and precise proposals on how to improve this strategy."

The series of meetings started last week with Calderon calling together academics, experts and civic groups to exchange ideas on combating drugs.

For more than 3 1/2 years, Calderon fiercely defended his policies, even as vicious cartel turf battles and attacks on police spread deep into Mexico and all along the regions bordering the United States.

He now appears more willing to discuss alternatives—even the legalization of drugs, a proposal that he personally opposes. Calderon repeated his argument again Tuesday that unilateral legalization would increase drug use and do little to reduce the cartels' income.

Some of the toughest criticism from the opposition leaders came on the subject of money laundering. An estimated \$10 billion in suspicious cash possibly linked to drug trafficking flows through Mexico annually, fueling the cartels' violence and ability to bribe officials.

"The government's strategy is not working," said Jesus Ortega, leader of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party. "I don't think there even is a strategy ... A government policy implies attacking this financial system that benefits from money laundering, and as a consequence, benefits from the violence."

While Mexico imposed tough restrictions on U.S. dollar transactions in June, limiting tourists and Mexicans without bank accounts to exchanging a maximum of \$1,500 in cash each month, critics claim little has been done to combat laundering through banks or other businesses.

"This money—millions and millions of dollars—isn't stuffed under the mattress of

No slowing of drug flow

In the nearly four years since Mexican President Felipe Calderon launched a crackdown on drug traffickers, overall narcotics activity has not declined, and travel warnings have skyrocketed.

Increasing violence

Areas for which the U.S. State Department has issued travel warnings, including cities notable for violence

October 2008

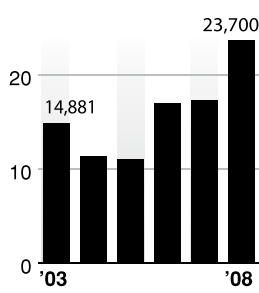


July 2010

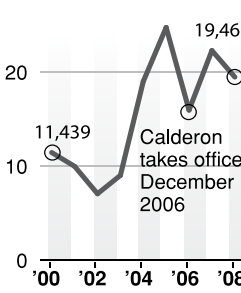


More pot, fewer arrests in Mexico

Annual marijuana production in Mexico, in tons



Annual drug arrests in Mexico

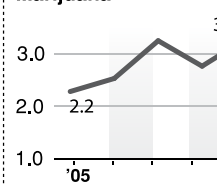


© 2010 MCT
Source: U.S. Dept. of Justice's 2010 National Drug Threat Assessment, annual Mexican presidential reports, ESRI
Graphic: Julie Sheer, Paul Duginski, Los Angeles Times

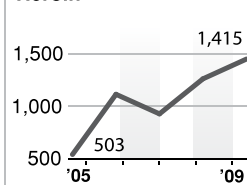
U.S. drug seizures

Number of pounds confiscated at southwest border of the U.S., as of Dec. 1, 2009

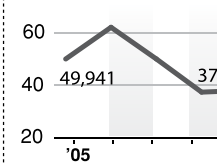
Marijuana In millions



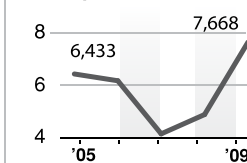
Heroin



Cocaine



Metamphetamine



the drug lords or the hit men," Ortega said. "The largest part of

this money, the immense majority, is in the banks and financial

institutions of Mexico and the United States."

Colombia, Venezuela restore diplomatic ties

SANTA MARTA, Colombia (AP)—The presidents of Colombia and Venezuela agreed Tuesday to restore diplomatic relations severed nearly three weeks ago by Caracas, smoothing over a dispute over allegations Colombian rebels have camps in Venezuela.

The rapprochement came during a four-hour meeting between Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Colombia's new leader, Juan Manuel Santos, both of whom said they are starting to rebuild confi-

dence shattered during years of quarreling.

"We have decided that the two countries will re-establish diplomatic relations," Santos told reporters after the meeting in Santa Marta on Colombia's Caribbean coast. "President Chavez has said ... that he is not going to allow the presence of outlaw groups in his territory."

Chavez said the countries are starting down a new road after years of often prickly relations under Santos' predecessor, Alvaro Uribe. Uribe's administra-

tion accused Chavez's socialist-oriented government of aiding the rebels and turning a blind eye to rebel leaders and guerrilla camps in Venezuelan territory.

Chavez reiterated that he doesn't support the Colombian rebels or any other insurgent group.

"I've said it a million times: The Venezuelan government that I lead neither supports nor allows, nor will permit, the presence of guerrillas, or terrorism or drug trafficking," Chavez said.

"I need the president to believe

in me," Chavez said. "Believe me ... we haven't found a single guerrilla camp," he added.

The two presidents said they will appoint ambassadors as soon as possible and will work to rebuild trade that has fallen dramatically in the past year.

They also said Colombian Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin will travel to Caracas soon to work on creating multiple joint commissions, including one to oversee security along the Colombian-Venezuelan border.



This combination of two satellite images provided by NASA and taken on July 28, 2010, at left, and Aug. 5, 2010, at right, shows the Petermann Glacier in Northern Greenland.

Huge ice island could pose threat to oil and shipping

STOCKHOLM (AP)—An island of ice more than four times the size of Manhattan is drifting across the Arctic Ocean after breaking off from a glacier in Greenland.

Potentially in the path of this unstoppable giant are oil platforms and shipping lanes—and any collision could do untold damage. In a worst case scenario, large chunks could reach the heavily trafficked waters where another Greenland iceberg sank the Titanic in 1912.

It's been a summer of near biblical climatic havoc across the planet, with wildfires, heat and smog in Russia and killer floods in Asia. But the moment the Petermann glacier cracked last week—creating the biggest Arctic ice island in half

a century—may symbolize a warming world like no other.

"It's so big that you can't prevent it from drifting. You can't stop it," said Jon-Ove Methlie Hagen, a glaciologist at the University of Oslo.

Few images can capture the world's climate fears like a 100-square-mile (260-square-kilometer) chunk of ice breaking off Greenland's vast ice sheet, a reservoir of freshwater that if it collapsed would raise global sea levels by a devastating 20 feet (6 meters).

The world's newest ice island already is being used as a powerful emblem in the global warming debate, with U.S. Rep. Edward Markey of Massachusetts suggesting it could serve as a home for climate change skeptics.

WORLD BRIEFS

Co-pilot Putin helps put out Russia's wildfires

MOSCOW (AP)—Prime Minister Vladimir Putin climbed into a firefighting plane Tuesday and dumped water on two of the hundreds of wildfires sweeping through western Russia and cloaking Moscow in a suffocating smog. Putin has been a very visible leader in the battle against the fires, which have caused billions of dollars in damage and left thousands homeless in the past two weeks. He has demanded that soldiers help overstretched firefighting brigades and has walked through smoldering villages, consoling residents and promising them new homes by fall. But with his once sky-high approval ratings dropping—and sociologists warning that discon-

tent could grow as the fires and a severe drought take their toll—Putin has not let up. He took off Tuesday in a Be-200 firefighting plane and then moved into the copilot's seat. Television footage showed him pushing a button to unleash water on blazing forest fires about 120 miles (200 kilometers) southeast of Moscow.

Fire hits former Nazi death camp in Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A fire swept through a barrack at the former Nazi death camp of Majdanek, destroying more than half the building and possibly 10,000 shoes of Holocaust victims, officials said Tuesday. The Majdanek museum said the fire in the barrack housing a camp kitchen was discovered shortly

before midnight on Monday by a guard making his rounds. The cause of the fire is not yet known and authorities are investigating. In Israel, the director of the Yad Vashem museum, Avner Shalev expressed sorrow that the historic site and valuable artifacts had been damaged or destroyed. "The damage to these irreplaceable items is a loss to a site that has such historical value to Europe, Poland and the Jewish people," Shalev said.

Lebanon: US military aid halt is 'unwarranted'

BEIRUT (AP)—For years, the U.S. has pumped money into Lebanon's military, hoping a strengthened army would sideline Iranian-backed Hezbollah's powerful militia. The unexpect-

ed decision by a U.S. Congressman to suspend that aid over concerns the weapons could be turned on Israel again raises one of Lebanon's most vexing questions: Who is really in charge of the Arab nation? Hezbollah is undoubtedly the country's most powerful military force, with an arsenal that far outweighs that of the Western-backed national army. Lebanon's government is an uneasy coalition of a Western-backed bloc, headed by Prime Minister Saad Hariri, and Hezbollah, which in just a few years has gained so much political power it now has a virtual veto over government decisions. Hariri's bloc wants the Islamic militant group to disarm, but does not have the power to force its will.

Focus

By **CHARLES J. HANLEY**
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP)—In this place where a fearful age was born one fiery instant 65 years ago, the Flame of Peace still flickers on, awaiting the day when the world is rid of nuclear weapons.

Many believe that day may be approaching.

"I saw a light in a dark tunnel," says Emiko Okada, 73. "President Obama said, 'Yes, I can.'"

For her and other "hibakusha," survivors of Hiroshima 1945, abolishing nuclear weapons has been a lifelong crusade. But the cause that Hiroshima never abandoned is now also the cause of a growing movement worldwide, embraced by statesmen in Washington and other capitals, endorsed by old Cold Warriors, promoted by Hollywood, financed by billionaires.

Ordinary people, too, in country after country, want "zero nukes," opinion polls show.

But is it achievable? Can doomsday arms be banished from the face of the Earth? Will man stop reaching for ever more powerful weapons? And, more immediately, will an American president, following his ambassador's unprecedented visit, finally walk this year among the cherry trees, the memorials, the unspeakable memories of Hiroshima?

"The hibakusha say, 'We're getting older and older and we'll soon die.' For them abolition is a kind of dream that should be achieved immediately," says Kazumi Mizumoto, 53, a Hiroshima-born scholar of the nuclear age. "I understand their feelings. But feelings aren't enough."

The strongest feelings are of obligation—to the countless thousands whose ashes lie beneath the burial mound beside the Ota, the tidal river that ebbed and flowed with charred bodies on Aug. 6, 1945, after U.S. airmen dropped a bomb that, in a blinding orange flash, unleashed the atom's unearthly power on an unsuspecting city below.

■ ■ ■
In movie houses across America this summer, the Hollywood film "Countdown to Zero" is exhorting audiences to "change our way of thinking" and eliminate nuclear arsenals. In a second documentary, "Nuclear Tipping Point," distributed via 50,000 DVDs and screened for President Barack Obama last April, former U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz warns of "a very dangerous moment" in history and calls for zero weapons.

The first film was financed by former eBay chief Jeff Skoll, and the second by the Nuclear Threat Initiative, an organiza-

Abolishing nukes: flicker of hope to global cause



AP PHOTO/U.S. ARMY VIA HIROSHIMA PEACE MEMORIAL MUSEUM

In this Monday, Aug. 6, 1945 picture made available by the U.S. Army via the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, a mushroom cloud billows into the sky about one hour after an atomic bomb was detonated above Hiroshima, Japan.

tion underwritten by two other billionaires, Warren Buffett and Ted Turner.

Such heavyweight backing points up the movement's newfound clout. It will need every ounce of it in contending with the inertia of the nuclear age.

The age unfolded slowly at first. After dropping bombs on Hiroshima, killing at least 140,000 people, and three days later on Nagasaki, killing at least 80,000, the U.S. took Japan's World War II surrender and built only three more bombs in 1945. But by 1949, when the Soviet Union tested its first device, the U.S. had 235, and the arms race between Cold War adversaries was joined.

The "nuclear club" expanded in the following decades, to include Britain, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan and probably North Korea.

At its peak, in 1986, the global stockpile totaled more than 70,000 weapons, 96 percent in U.S. and Soviet hands—not just aerial bombs and missile warheads, but also nuclear land mines, naval depth charges and artillery shells, equivalent to three tons of TNT for every person on Earth.

Through those years, the world teetered on the edge of a catastrophic nuclear exchange an unknown number of times, from 1962's Cuban Missile Crisis to false alarms and near-launches never publicly reported.

It wasn't until the Cold War ended in 1991, as the Soviet Union disintegrated, that a "build-down" of strategic weapons began, with the first treaty reducing long-range nuclear

missiles. But reduction was not elimination: By 2007, arsenals still bristled with 27,000 atomic warheads, enough for more than 150,000 Hiroshimas.

In January that year, a pivotal opinion piece appeared in The Wall Street Journal, signed by Shultz and Henry A. Kissinger, former secretaries of state;

to abolitionists. In 2008, momentum built as both U.S. presidential candidates espoused the no-nukes goal, and a new high-profile movement, Global Zero, took shape, led by Jordan's Queen Noor and former U.S. arms negotiator Richard Burt and backed by such leading fig-

ures as former Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

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er notch, to 1,550 deployed warheads, with several thousand in reserve. That pact awaits U.S. Senate ratification.

The abolitionists, meanwhile, have rolled out their plans. Global Zero's study group of former U.S., Russian, Chinese and other military and diplomatic leaders proposes a phased process whereby the U.S. and Russia negotiate down to 1,000 warheads each by 2018. Meanwhile, by mid-decade, other nuclear-armed nations would enter multilateral talks to reduce their weapons in proportion to continuing U.S. and Russian cuts. All would reach zero by 2030.

Mayors for Peace, representing 4,037 cities worldwide and led by Hiroshima's Mayor Tadatashi Akiba, is even more ambitious, calling for abolition by 2020.

The most detailed, step-by-step blueprint comes from the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, sponsored by the Japanese and Australian governments. That 300-page report, issued last November, foresees "minimization"—a world of no more than 2,000 warheads—by 2025, and elimination of the weapons over an undefined period to follow.

"We did not feel it was practical to set a date" for elimination, commission co-chair Yoriko Kawaguchi, former Japanese foreign minister, said in a Tokyo interview.

She likened it to climbing a mountain and not seeing the top until halfway up, when one can better judge how to get there.

"It's not easy but we will have

to do it. We will have to change the world," she said. "If you go to Hiroshima, you realize the atrocity of nuclear weapons."

But "realists" have been quick to dismiss what a former U.S. defense secretary, Harold Brown, calls the "practical impossibility" of zero nukes.

For starters, they say, Russia, China, India, Pakistan and France, each for its own reasons, would resist giving up their arsenals—Russia, for example, out of concern about a large U.S. conventional military advantage. They argue, too, that such countries as Germany and Japan, reliant on U.S. nuclear protection, would be tempted to build their own if they saw the U.S. moving to dismantle its weapons.

Abolitionists counter that progress clearly depends on political will and leadership to overcome such nationalistic concerns.

"One thing we have learned is that working just on the basis of self-interest, this does not work," Gorbachev said in a 2009 AP interview. If the U.S. and Russia together take the lead, he said, "then the next steps will come from other countries."

What about cheaters? the skeptics ask. What if the world goes to zero, but Iran decides to build a bomb?

"It's an irrelevant kind of argument," Shultz told the AP last year. If everyone else is dismantling their weapons and Iran looms as the only country with them, "nobody is going to stand for that," he said.

As for detecting secret bomb programs and verifying warhead dismantlement, proponents say the science of verification—through atmospheric sampling, satellite imaging, seismic monitoring and other tools—has advanced to a state of high confidence. And the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, would have to be given greater powers of onsite inspection, they say.

Who would enforce a nuclear-free world? The ultimate authority, the U.N. Security Council, is often paralyzed when one of its five permanent members, the major nuclear powers, wields its veto power.

Nobuyasu Abe, former U.N. disarmament chief, suggests that under a nuclear ban the five agree not to exercise the veto in the case of an illicit nuclear "breakout."

"If some other country is getting nuclear weapons, they're then agreed to take strong action against it," Abe said in Tokyo.

"Strong action," besides economic or political isolation, might take another, forceful route—resort to a residual nuclear option, the ability to quickly reconstitute atomic weapons to counter a looming nuclear threat. In that sense, whether

See **NUKES** on Next Page



AP PHOTO/U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

This undated handout photo made available by the Department of Defense shows a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber dropping conventional weapons. As of mid-2010, the United States deploys 316 nuclear bombs and nuclear cruise missiles on some 60 strategic bombers.

William Perry, a former U.S. defense secretary, and ex-U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

These four elder statesmen made two powerful arguments for abolition: Cold War-style nuclear deterrence was a long-obsolete notion, and the threat of nuclear terrorism, accident or miscalculation grew with every year that thousands of weapons and tons of weapons material existed.

Their appeal gave new hope

ures as former Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Then, in April 2009, the new U.S. president and Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev jointly endorsed the "zero" goal, and Obama, in a historic address in Prague, Czech Republic, declared that the U.S. must act "as the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon"—a rare statement of U.S. moral responsibility.

By April this year, the American and Russian leaders were signing a new treaty taking their countries' arsenals down another

Environment

International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 25

» CRM, DEQ, Ocean Conservancy to host 25th annual cleanup



Marine debris in the Hawaiian islands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trash is one of the most widespread pollution problems threatening our ocean and waterways—and it's entirely preventable. Saipan, Tinian and Rota are again a part of the International Coastal Cleanup, the world's largest volunteer effort to help protect our ocean.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of volunteers from around the world spend a few hours removing trash and debris from beaches, lakes, and rivers. During the 2009 Cleanup, CNMI volunteers joined nearly 500,000 volunteers

removing 7.4 million pounds of debris, from 6,485 sites in 108 countries and 45 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

"The ocean is our life support system—yet marine debris continues to threaten its health. Trash littering our beaches and choking our ecosystems is a threat to wildlife, our coastal economies, and ultimately to the ability of the ocean to sustain us," said Vikki Spruill, president and CEO of Ocean Conservancy. "The Cleanup gives everyone a chance to work in their backyards and be a part of this special movement for our oceans."

The 2010 cleanup event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 25, with groups volunteering throughout the day.

For further information or to

register for the cleanup, contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8305 (Saipan), 433-0494

(Tinian), 532-0466 (Rota) or email rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp. (PR)

Interning at the DFW

By **BIANCA K. BLANCO**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hafa Adai! My name is Bianca K. Blanco. I graduated from Grace Christian Academy, class of 2010. I am an intern for Eileen Escudero Wisor at Division of Fish and Wildlife. She is currently the coral reef attorney for DFW, DEQ, and CRM.

Currently, we are trying to set up a hearing process for all three agencies. In order to do so, we have to "borrow" a hearing officer. One of my biggest projects has been finding all the laws and regulations of DFW and compiling them for the hearing officer. Now that I am done with that project, I will begin the work for my other projects. These consist of researching coral reef protections and initiatives, starting up my own website about the state of our coral reefs, what is being done to protect it, etc.; and reaching out to pre-school students in Astoria, New York about the coral reefs and the animals that inhabit them.

It is not all deskwork, though. At least once a week, I go out with the Enforcement Section at Division of Fish

and Wildlife and we patrol the sanctuaries of Saipan, to help insure that no one is harming our ocean in any way. Moreover, my experience as an intern has helped me learn more about what our environment needs, how we can protect it, and what regulations are being implanted to protect it. It has also made me consider changing my major to marine biology. For now, I am set on becoming a doctor, either in pediatrics or neurology. I plan on furthering my education and earning a degree in the states. Until then, I have decided to pursue a cultural, spiritual and educational experience at Shogen Junior College in Japan.

I am so privileged to work with a great group of people who work hard to protect our island's ocean and wildlife. I am honored and happy to have such a great mentor, who has worked hard in creating a process to prosecute the people that have committed crimes against nature. My overall experience as an intern at DFW has been fun, a great learning experience, and definitely something that I will remember and carry with me throughout life.

SharkWater a hit; Dirt! next

The "First Friday Films" viewing of *SharkWater* last Friday was a huge hit! It sparked such interest in the community that extra chairs were needed for the theater to accommodate the 146 people attending the film. A big thank you goes to those who attended for such a great turnout and to the National Park Service and American Memorial Park for sponsoring the film. Praise also goes to head of Division of Fish

and Wildlife's Fisheries program, Mike Trianni for treating the audience to an informative presentation on the status of shark populations and protections for them here in the CNMI.

Next in line for "First Friday Films" is a documentary entitled *Dirt!*. The film explores the connection that all living beings have with soil and the damages that have been wrought on this thin layer of the earth's "skin"

by human beings. Makers of the movie call the loss of soil "a great crisis of our generation" and seek to inspire a revolution in how we view dirt. *Dirt!* will be shown at 6:30pm on Sept. 3 at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center.

All documentaries of "First Friday Films" are free and open to the public. Further information can be found at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. (PR)



NUKES

From Page 17

under control of national or international authorities, the weapons might be gone, but not forgotten.

In the end, champions and critics of "zero nukes" both say, the greatest obstacle lies in the regional clashes that keep the world on edge and nations building nuclear arsenals: India and Pakistan over Kashmir; Israel in its standoff with the Arabs; hostility between the U.S. and North Korea and Iran; the China-Taiwan impasse.

Easing such crises must come first, many say.

"Disarmament is important, but a safer world is more important," said France's Eric Danon, a veteran of disarmament diplomacy.

Abolitionists, on the other hand, hope steady progress and rising demand to eliminate nuclear weapons will in itself help move the world to resolve these disputes.

"I don't think we are sure the world will be stable enough," Kawaguchi acknowledged. "That's why you have to go step by step."

They're also unsure whether the world is aware enough.

"There are probably generations who haven't even seen the images of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," Queen Noor told the AP. "And so they don't have any sense of the reality of what this is."

■ ■ ■

Even 65 years later, that reality can seem unreal.

When the A-bomb exploded 600 meters (2,000 feet) above Shima Hospital at 8:15 a.m. on Aug. 6, 1945, its rays doused central Hiroshima with heat reaching more than 3,000 degrees Celsius (5,400 degrees Fahrenheit), twice what's needed to melt iron.

Wind from the blast reached 440 meters per second (almost 1,000 mph), the force of five Category-5 hurricanes.

Death and devastation were instantaneous. Trees, wooden houses, people were suddenly

ash, leaving a scorched, empty plain for 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) in all directions.

"Just gray ash desert," recalled Keijiro Matsushima, 81, who survived the collapse of his school outside the worst-hit zone.

All that day, he remembered, a "procession of ghosts" slowly emerged from Hiroshima's flaming core, "burned people like smoked and broiled pigs, faces all damaged and swollen up, the skin nearly peeling off," people doomed to die within hours, and many others to die from radiation poisoning in the weeks to come.

"I want more and more people in the world to know the horrible reality of nuclear weapons," said Matsushima, a retired high school English teacher who leads an abolitionist group of educators.

Robert "Bo" Jacobs tries to give American visitors a sense of that reality as he leads them through the Peace Memorial Park, past acres of poignant monuments, past the Flame of Peace, to be extinguished only

when the weapons are.

In the centerpiece museum, "most people are stunned" at the scale of 1945's devastation, said Jacobs, an American researcher-author at the Hiroshima Peace Institute. He then explains to them that Hiroshima's A-bomb pales beside the power of today's thermonuclear weapons.

"I don't think anybody really can grasp that scale," he said.

One who might begin to grasp it, with thousands of potential Hiroshimas under his command, is the president of the United States.

Obama told a Japanese interviewer last November he "would be honored" to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He'll have his chance: The annual Asia-Pacific summit is scheduled for Nov. 13-14 this year in Yokohama, Japan, just when Nobel Peace Prize laureates are gathering in Hiroshima, an hour's flight away. Obama qualifies for both meetings.

Meanwhile, Ambassador John Roos attended Friday's anniversary events here, first-ever

official U.S. involvement, a signal that Washington is ready for a role memorializing Hiroshima's victims. "We must continue to work together to realize a world without nuclear weapons," Roos said in a statement issued Friday.

To the hibakusha, Obama "is the leader of the 'Obamajority' abolition movement," said Steven L. Leeper, a longtime American resident of Japan who heads this city's peace park and museum foundation.

November "is an opportunity for him to do something amazing," Leeper said.

But the hibakusha know an Obama visit might produce a U.S. political backlash. "It won't be easy for him to decide to come to Hiroshima," Okada said.

They know, too, that attaining their ultimate goal, abolishing nuclear weapons, also won't be easy.

"Each country is selfish, after all. They want to defend themselves," Matsushima said. Being "a kind of realist," the old teacher said, he had "thought

and thought" about abolition, "and I concluded it would be very, very difficult."

Tranquil and green, crisscrossed by visiting schoolchildren, Hiroshima's peace park spreads over a point of river delta where, on that day 65 years ago, crazed and desperate parents searched in vain for thousands of children who had been brought to the city center to help clear firebreaks.

It's where for days afterward Hiroshima's burned, numbed, sick survivors piled unrecognizable human remains atop cremation pyres. It's where Okada's 12-year-old sister vanished in that morning's vaporizing heat, as hot as the surface of the sun.

A lifetime later, this quiet, subdued grandmother looked back.

"We have to protect our Earth, so our children and grandchildren will never suffer like that," she said.

And she looked ahead.

"Maybe nuclear weapons won't be abolished while I'm alive," she said. "But I will never give up."

Life & Style

Manager says Fantasia hospitalized after overdose

NEW YORK (AP)—Fantasia is in stable condition at a North Carolina hospital after taking an overdose of “aspirin and a sleep aid,” according to the manager for the former “American

Idol” champ.

The overdose came days after the singer was named in court documents by Paula Cook, who accused Fantasia of having an affair with her husband,

Antwaun Cook.

Brian Dickens, Fantasia’s manager, said in a statement Tuesday that winner was “overwhelmed by the lawsuit and the media attention.”

“Last night, Fantasia was hospitalized. She took an overdose of aspirin and a sleep aid. Her injuries are not life threatening. She was dehydrated and exhausted at the time,” he said. His statement did not specify where she was taken and he did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

In the statement, Dickens acknowledged that Fantasia had a relationship with Cook for 11 months, but said that Fantasia believed Cook when he said “he was not happy in his marriage and his heart was not in it. She believed him when he told her he and Mrs. Cook were separated late in the summer of 2009.” After reading the filing from Paula Cook, Dickens said “there is plenty (Fantasia) does not know” and added that she’s heartbroken over “any



AP
In this Jan. 6, 2010 file photo, recording artist Fantasia Barrino poses for a portrait in New York.

pain she may have caused.”

Fantasia, who won the “American Idol” crown in 2004, is due to release her third album, “Back to Me,” on Aug.

24. She was supposed to do promotion for the album this week; a Wednesday interview with The Associated Press was canceled earlier Tuesday.

Dickens noted the album release in his statement and also referred to one of the album’s songs “I’m Here,” which talks about being thankful for easy and hard times.

“Fantasia sends her praise to God and her eternal gratitude to her fans, friends, and family,” Dickens said.

Since winning “Idol,” the North Carolina resident has endured success as well as difficult times. While she’s had both platinum and gold albums and starred on Broadway in “The Color Purple,” she fell into legal troubles that almost forced her to lose her home in 2008.

A VH1 reality show, “Fantasia For Real,” debuted earlier this year, chronicling her struggles as a single mother trying to support her family, as well as her attempts to jump-start her career, which has sagged in recent years.

Rapper T.I. determined to get his life back into place

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—Everything seems to be falling back into place for T.I. since the rapper ended a 10-month term inside a U.S. federal prison and a halfway house earlier this year.

He’s got a movie, “Takers,” coming out on Aug. 27 and a new album, “King Uncaged,” due in late September. But more importantly, the Grammy-winner is putting a stronger focus on his family. The father of five recently demonstrated that commitment by getting married to his longtime girlfriend, Tameka “Tiny” Cottle, late last month.

“Right now, it’s all about moving forward and just acknowledging the blessing that are here today. ... Just moving past the regrets of yesterday — the things that could’ve been done better,” said T.I. in an interview last month.

The 29-year-old served seven months in an Arkansas federal prison and three months in a Georgia halfway house on federal weapons charges and was released in March. He said he’s been able to relieve the lingering guilt of being unable to protect his best friend Philant Johnson, who was killed following his post-performance party in Cincinnati in 2006.

“I got so down on myself about the loss of his life that I did not acknowledge the fact that I still had mine,” he said.

Jason Geter, co-CEO of Grand Hustle Records, T.I.’s label, said T.I.



AP
In this Aug. 4, 2010 file photo, rapper Tip “T.I.” Harris, a cast member in the film “Takers,” poses at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles.

has made more of a conscious effort to spend more time with his family.

“He’s not taking things for granted as far as wasting time,” Geter said. “He realizes things aren’t guaranteed.”

T.I. says he’s also determined to pick up where he left off after the success of his last album “Paper Trail.” It was released in October 2008 and sold over two million copies and charted three No. 1 songs. He’s already released singles, “I’m Back” and “Got Your Back,” featuring Keri Hilson.

“I just want to make sure that I came back the same way I left,” he says. “I left relatively strong. I just wanted to make sure I came back in a way that would support my exit.”

Ex-agent: Naomi Campbell knew gift was diamonds

LEIDSCHEMENDAM, Netherlands (AP)—Naomi Campbell’s former agent fended off defense accusations Tuesday that she lied to the war crimes court to further her own lawsuit against Campbell, insisting the model knew she was receiving diamonds from Charles Taylor.

Taylor, the former Liberian president, faces 11 counts of war crimes linked to allegations he supported rebels during Sierra Leone’s vicious 11-year civil war, which ended in 2002 with an estimated 100,000 dead. Prosecutors accuse him of trading in so-called blood diamonds—gems used to finance wars—in exchange for supporting the rebels. Taylor denies the charges.

Agent Carole White said she was present when Campbell told Jeremy Ractliffe, head of the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund, that the diamonds she was donating to the charity came from Taylor.

Campbell testified last week she did not know the source or value of the “stones” she received after a 1997 dinner party at Mandela’s presidential mansion. She told the court that two men came to her room in the middle of the night and said merely it was “a gift for you.” The British supermodel said she did not even know they were diamonds.

Taylor’s lawyer Courtenay Griffiths accused White of lying to assist her in a separate case against her former client, whom she is suing for millions of dollars for alleged breach of contract.

“I suggest that your account is a complete pack of lies, and you’ve made it up in order to assist in your lawsuit against Ms. Campbell,” Griffiths said Tuesday. “Put bluntly, for you this is all about money.”

White told the court her account was true, and that she had told the same story to friends in 1997 because “it was

funny at the time.”

“It’s totally the truth. It has nothing to do with my business argument with Naomi Campbell,” White said. “This is not about money.”

On Monday, American actress and human rights activist Mia Farrow also told the court that Campbell had told her the day after the 1997 dinner that she received “a huge diamond” from Taylor.

The statutes of the Sierra Leone war crimes court make no reference to perjury and specify no penalties for it.

The appearance of Campbell and Farrow brought intense media interest to a case mired in tales of murders, atrocities and cannibalism in West Africa.

The three judges of the Special Court for Sierra Leone order Griffiths to wind up Taylor’s defense by Nov. 12, ending the trial just short of three years after it began in earnest. Taylor himself was on the stand for nearly seven months.

Viva Vogue Italia? Oil-inspired spread stirs muck

MIAMI, Florida (AP)—The model is in black, prone and dirty on jagged rocks, netting draped around her legs like a dead sea creature.

There she is again, lying on her back in a feathered dress, and in close up, her hair and face sleek with oil.

A stirring photo spread in the August issue of Vogue Italia was inspired by the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, leaving readers wondering if the magazine crossed from evocative to insensitive. Editor-in-Chief Franca Sozzani understands the debate stretching from blogosphere to beaches and said the motivation is straightforward.

“The message is to be careful about nature,” she said by telephone from Milan, Italy. “Just to take care more about nature. ... I understand that it could be shocking to see and to look in this way these images.”

The spread, featuring Kristen McMenamy, is titled “Water & Oil” and was shot in Los Angeles by a leading fashion photographer, Steven Meisel. In another of the photos, the gray-haired McMenamy is covered in oil, spitting up water

while clutching her neck.

“They are teasing BP. It doesn’t offend me,” said Lauren Crappel of Houma, Louisiana, as she slathered sunscreen on a child while unpacking her car in a Pensacola Beach parking lot.

Virginia Contreras of Navarre, Florida, said the photos were making light of the disaster. “I think they are making light of the oil spill. Everyone isn’t going to the beaches and people have lost their jobs here because of the oil,” she said.

Sozzani said the shoot reflects the magazine’s effort to “find an idea that comes from real life. ... There is nothing political. There is nothing social. It’s only visually. We gave a message but in a visual way.”

Some bloggers were not pleased. Dodai Stewart, deputy editor of Jezebel, called the spread inappropriate.

“I didn’t feel it made a statement,” she said in an interview. “I felt that they used the oil spill as a backdrop. There was one picture that had feathers. ... What makes a stronger statement about oil-slicked birds is an oil-slicked bird.”



AP PHOTO/VOGUE ITALIA, STEVEN MEISEL
This image provided by Steven Meisel for Vogue Italia shows an image from the August issue of Vogue Italia featuring Kristen McMenamy. The issue includes a photo spread shot by Steven Meisel titled “Water & Oil”.

Miranda Lash, curator of modern and contemporary art at the New Orleans Museum of Art, said artists should be free to take on any topic.

“When I look at it, I feel pain. It evokes pain and a feeling of loss and sadness because this is going to hurt my region for a very long time,” Lash said.

Beth Batton, curator of the permanent collection at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson, Mississippi, said in an e-mail that the spread humanizes the condition of the Gulf coast animals and environment.

“Looking at Steven Meisel’s photographs, you know something is terribly

wrong because, as sensual as the images are, the human mind understands the toxicity of the oil that has coated model Kristen McMenamy’s skin, hair, and feathery gloves,” she said.

On Twitter, type in keywords Vogue Italia and you’ll get various opinions.

Brandie Hopstein, who lives in New Orleans, tweeted about the shoot after seeing the photos days ago. “There is this oil spill going on. It’s not going to be slipped under the rug,” she said. “I happen to love the shoot.”

Julie Urban of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, said it is too soon for photographs like these. “I was like, ‘What?’ I can’t believe they did that and the pictures are really graphic,” she said. “It’s just people dying and choking. There’s tar everywhere. It’s really disturbing.”

Angelia Levy of Silver Spring, Maryland, tweeted that the spread was “kind of iffy, but it’s provocative.” She said she was not offended, and questions whether an American magazine would have run it.

“There is no way that would go down,” Levy said. “It seems distant for them so they can afford to have models rolling around in oil.”

Scarlett's dresses in bad shape, need repairs

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—It's time to find out if fans of "Gone With the Wind" frankly give a damn about the fabulous dresses worn by Vivien Leigh in the multiple Oscar-winning Civil War drama.

The Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin is trying to raise \$30,000 to restore five of Scarlett O'Hara's now tattered gowns from the 1939 film.

The Ransom Center is planning an exhibit to mark the movie's 75th anniversary in 2014, but at the moment most of them are too fragile to go on display, according to Jill Morena, the center's collection assistant for costumes and personal effects.

"There are areas where the fabric has been worn through, fragile seams and other problems," Morena said. "These dresses have been under a lot of stress."

The Ransom Center ac-

quired the costumes—including O'Hara's green curtain dress, green velvet gown, burgundy ball gown, blue velvet night gown and her wedding dress—in the mid-1980s as part of the collection of "Gone With the Wind" producer David O. Selznick. By then, they had already been through decades of traveling displays in theaters and had been on loan to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

"Film costumes weren't meant to last," Morena said. "They are only meant to last through the duration of filming. You won't find them to be as finished as if you bought something off the rack."

The costumes are among the most famous in Hollywood history and they played a key role in one of the most popular films ever. "Gone With the Wind" won eight Academy Awards.

Yet the green curtain dress—symbolic of O'Hara's determination to survive—has loose seams and needs structural reinforcement. Others have suffered abrasion and areas where the fabric is nearly worn through.

Leigh wore the curtain dress in three scenes: the jail scene in which Scarlett asks Rhett Butler, played by Clark Gable, for financial help; as she walks through the streets of Atlanta with Mammy; and when she meets Frank Kennedy.

Talking about his costume designs for the film in William Pratt's 1977 book "Scarlett Fever," designer Walter Plunkett was modest.

"I don't think it was my best work or even the biggest thing I did," Plunkett said. "But that picture, of course, will go on forever, and that green dress, because it makes a story point,



This 1939 photo provided by the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin shows Vivien Leigh, as Scarlett O'Hara, wearing a burgundy ball gown, and co-star Clark Gable in *Gone With the Wind*.

is probably the most famous costume in the history of motion pictures."

Donations will be used to restore the dresses and buy protective housing and custom

mannequins for the 2014 exhibit, Morena said. The Ransom Center also hopes to send the dresses out on loan.

Donations can be made on the Ransom Center website.

Doctor felt Smith used drugs for emotional pain

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A doctor who treated Anna Nicole Smith six years before she died testified Tuesday that she complained of many physical ailments but he was unable to diagnose the source of most of her pain.

Dr. Victor Kovner said he came to feel, "she was treating emotional pain with drugs designed for physical pain."

Kovner said he warned Dr. Sandeep Kapoor, a doctor now charged with providing large amounts of prescription drugs to the Playboy model, that Smith could be manipulative.

Kovner offered the warning when Kapoor bought his practice. He also urged Kapoor not to socialize with celebrity patients, an issue that has arisen in the trial.

Kapoor was photographed riding with Smith in a gay pride parade, and prosecutors claim the social relationship clouded his judgment.

Kovner said he told Kapoor in 2003 that Smith had two diagnoses: chronic pain and addiction to prescription drugs.

His comments regarding addiction drew objections from a defense attorney. But Superior Court Judge Robert Perry reminded jurors that a key issue in the case is whether Smith was addicted to drugs.

Kapoor, Dr. Kristine Eroshovich, a psychiatrist, and Howard K. Stern, who was Smith's boyfriend-lawyer, have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to provide Smith with excessive amounts of

opiates and sedatives and to prescribing to an addict.

Perry told the jury the law says a person whose drug-seeking behavior is due to a need to control pain is not an addict.

"Substance abuse is a lifelong disorder," Kovner testified, noting Smith told him she had been in rehab once for alcohol and Vicodin abuse.

He also said there were times when Smith asked for additional medication, mostly because she was afraid of running out of her pills.

He said he provided her with Dilaudid, Methadone and Topomax during the time he treated her, and she seemed to improve.

"She had the potential for being manipulative but she did respond to structure and when denied what she wanted she adjusted to it," he said.

Asked to describe Smith's personality, the doctor said, "I felt she was very childlike. She acted like a teenager."

He said she spoke of many maladies including Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a pain disorder, which he could not confirm.

"She had long lists of pain," including migraines, back pain and intestinal dysfunction, he said.

Kovner, now semi-retired, said he had previous dealings with celebrity patients.

"Celebrities are known to often corrupt the judgment of good doctors," he said. "An outstanding example is Michael Jackson."

Wyclef Jean says would govern in English, Creole

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Singer Wyclef Jean plans to govern Haiti in English and Creole if he is elected president, setting him apart from his political rivals in this former French colony.

The former Fugees frontman made the comments to Radio Metropole on Tuesday after returning to Haiti from the United States.

Politicians in Haiti traditionally speak mainly Creole and French—the latter for many things being the language of government in Haiti. Jean's American-accented Creole and lack of French are constant reminders he did not grow up here.

Jean, who was born in Haiti but raised in New York City, also urged overseas Haitians to invest in Haiti.

Jean announced his candidacy Aug. 5, then left Haiti the next day. He returned Tuesday afternoon, an adviser said in an e-mail.

He had been scheduled to appear at a fundraiser in Massachusetts for Gov. Deval Patrick on Tuesday evening, but bowed out to travel to Haiti.

It was unclear how long the 40-year-old Jean, who owns a home in New Jersey and property in Haiti, would be in the country.

There is some debate over whether Jean will even be on the presidential ballot Nov. 28. According to the constitution, Haitian presidents must have lived in the country at least five consecutive years before election day.

An eight-member provisional electoral council is spending this week verifying candidates' credentials.

Jean's campaign is expected to argue that his 2007 appointment as an ambassador-at-large for Haiti exempts him from the requirement.

He has entered a highly competitive and crowded race for a difficult and dangerous job. Only one person has completed a democratically elected 5-year term in Haiti's history—current President Rene Preval, who is poised to do it a second time and hand off to an elected successor since he is barred from seeking re-election.

The winner of the election will take on responsibility for a destroyed capital, 1.6 million homeless people and countless groups fighting over billions of dollars in international reconstruction funds pledged after the January earthquake that killed an estimated 300,000 people.

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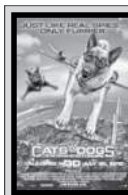
The Other Guys

Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
Sun through Thurs 1:10 4:20 7:10

Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg star as cops in this comedy directed by Adam McKay and co-written by McKay and Land of the Lost scribe Chris Henchy. Dwayne Johnson, Samuel L. Jackson, and Steve Coogan co-star.



Cats and Dogs: Revenge of Kitty Galore

Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Sun through Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15

Alec Baldwin, Chris O'Donnell
Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

The epic struggle for control of planet Earth continues in this sequel to the 2001 comedy that had pet owners all across the world looking at their house pets in a whole new light. Chris O'Donnell and 30 Rock's Jack McBrayer head up the cast of the production, with scripting duties being handled by Brother Bear's Ron J. Friedman and Steve Bencich.



Charlie St. Cloud

Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sun through Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30

Zac Efron, Kim Basinger
Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Zac Efron reteams with 7 Again's Burr Steers for this adaptation of Ben Sherwood's novel regarding a caretaker of a cemetery who has daily discussions with his deceased brother. Kim Basinger heads up the supporting cast as the young men's mother.



Salt

Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sun through Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25

Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber
Thriller • Rated PG 13



Dinner For Schmucks

Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
Sun through Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05

Steve Carell, Paul Rudd
Comedy • Rated PG 13



Inception

Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sun through Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13



The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
Sun through Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:20

Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel
Fantasy, Children's/family • Rated PG

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Britney Spears looks set for Fox TV 'Glee' episode

NEW YORK (AP)—Britney Spears seems set to appear in an episode of the Fox musical-comedy television show "Glee" next season.

Show co-creator Ryan Murphy said Tuesday he expects Spears to act in an episode that's

"reverential about her." Murphy said on Ryan Seacrest's radio show he admires how Spears has turned herself around.

The singer of pop hits such as "... Baby One More Time" and "Toxic" spent years as tabloid

fodder for a series of high-profile hospitalizations and erratic behavior such as shaving her head.

On "Glee," singers under anesthesia at the dentist's office hallucinate about Spears and being like her.

Murphy says the episode will feature Spears' music and won't delve into her personal life. He says, "We're handling Britney with kid gloves."

The Emmy Award-nominated show has become a hit for Fox.

Parole hearing for John Lennon's killer postponed

BUFFALO, New York (AP)—The parole hearing for John Lennon's killer has been postponed for a month.

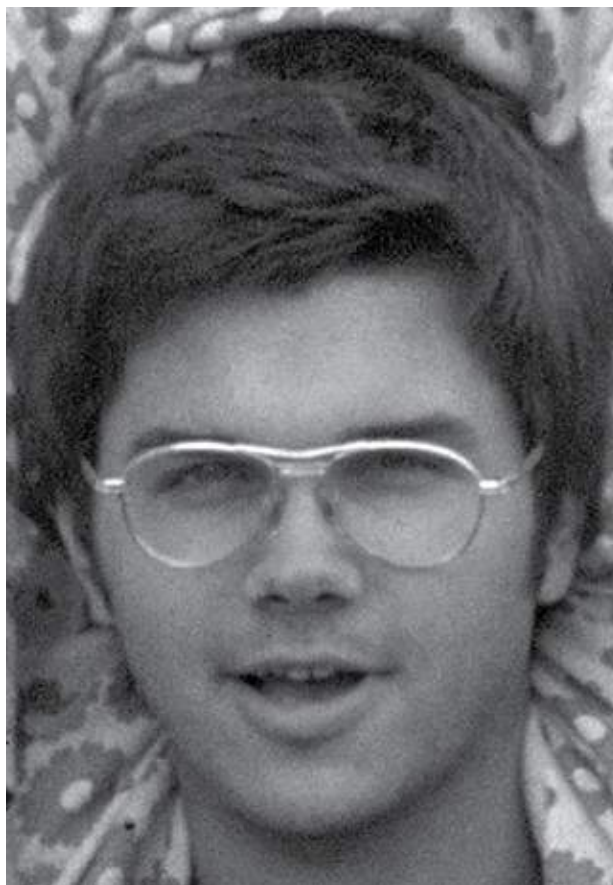
Mark David Chapman was scheduled to be interviewed this week at Attica Correctional Facility in upstate New York.

A spokesman for the Division of Parole now says Chapman was told Tuesday that his interview has been rescheduled for early September.

The parole board says it's awaiting more information so that it has a complete record. It didn't specify what.

The 55-year-old Chapman has been denied parole five times and has appeared before the board every two years since 2000.

He's serving a sentence of 20 years to life for shooting Lennon four times outside the ex-Beatle's Manhattan apartment building in 1980.



AP
In this 1975 file photo, Mark David Chapman is seen at Fort Chaffee near Fort Smith, Ark. John Lennon's killer will seek his freedom for a sixth time in an interview before a parole board as early as Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2010.

'Lost' alumni Emerson, O'Quinn pursuing TV project

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Emerson confirms he and former fellow "Lost" star Terry O'Quinn are shopping around for ideas for a TV show.

Emerson says they both want something more light-hearted than "Lost." He hopes the show can acknowledge their "age and frailty." Emerson says he envisions a show where, if their characters get hit in the face, they "don't get up for a month."

The 55-year-old Emerson and 58-year-old O'Quinn are both up for best supporting actor Emmy Awards.

Emerson says he is aware a segment from the "Lost" final season DVD was leaked recently. Even though he stars in it, however, Emerson says he still hasn't seen it.

The actor, who played Ben Linus in the ABC show that ended in May, says he does not really get the "whole I-have-to-see-it-before-the-rest-of-the-world mania."



Emerson

Families battling cancer find strength comforting each other

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: "Devastated in Oklahoma" (June 18) asked how she can be supportive of her father, who is battling lung cancer. I was in a similar situation 3 1/2 years ago when my dad was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood.

It was terrifying witnessing the physical impact it had on my dad. I realized there wasn't anything I could do for his pain—that was up to his doctors. But I figured out what I COULD do: I could raise money for cancer research.

I joined the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training and trained for an endurance bike ride while raising money for cancer. It was the greatest experience not only for me, but also for my dad, who was extremely touched by the number of donations. It gave him a morale boost.

I would like to encourage "Devastated" to look for a similar program in her area. It may help her deal with the diagnosis, knowing she's helping current and future patients just like her dad. "Devastated" doesn't have to be an athlete to sign up. I didn't even own a bike when I started the journey!

EMMY IN ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

DEAR EMMY: Taking a proactive stance is an excellent suggestion and one I am happy to pass along to "Devastated." Read on:

DEAR ABBY: With two cancer survivors in my family, I heartily endorse your advice. Even when we faced a 10 percent chance of survival, we worked, prayed, researched and talked about hopeful prospects. It helped us all in valuable ways.

There were dark days, but love of family, attention to medical messages, prayer and forward thinking can make a huge difference in the healing process. This is a time for "Devastated" to bond in new ways with her father.

BEEN THERE, TOO

DEAR ABBY: My mother was diagnosed with lung cancer, too. She had one-fourth of her left lung removed. We thought it might be the end for her, but it certainly wasn't. She lived for seven more years, and I cherished the extra time I had with her. I hope "Devastated" will treasure every second with her father now.

BARBARA IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR ABBY: As a father of two and grandfather of four, I know there is nothing more wonderful than being involved with one's progeny. "Devastated" should know that when her father comforted her, he was given the opportunity to do what a father loves to do -- show love to his child. And believe me, to know he was needed was a comfort to him as well. She need not worry. She is right where she needs to be.

PAPA IN HAYWARD, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: "Devastated" should consider hospice if her father decides to stop treatment. It's a godsend and costs nothing. Most of all, she needs to let her father comfort her and to be her daddy for as long as possible. It will make him feel better. Let him know she loves him and will support any decision he makes. It is OK to cry, and to cry with him.

MARY IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR ABBY: My brave, strong, loving father was killed instantly in a car accident. When I learned about it, I wished I had him to comfort me. "Devastated" is fortunate to still have time with her father.

She should not feel guilty about her feelings; they are perfectly normal. She needs to be his daughter first, his second pair of ears throughout his treatment and his caregiver if needed. The strength will come when she needs it.

STILL MISSING MY DAD

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Bachelorette' gives rose and gets top TV ratings

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Bachelorette" Ali Fedotowsky has a new fiancé and some television bragging rights. The Nielsen Co. says an estimated 11.7 million people watched Fedotowsky give her final rose to insurance agent Roberto Martinez on the ABC show and, in return, get a proposal. On a quiet August week, that was enough to make "The Bachelorette" the No. 1 program. It was the first time that the show that debuted in 2003 has topped the weekly ratings. The couple plan to settle down together in the San Diego area.

Motorcycle signed by country stars stolen

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—A motorcycle autographed by country music stars has been stolen in central Kentucky, where it was to be auctioned to benefit breast cancer research and prevention. The 2010 Harley-Davidson Sportster was inside a locked trailer, which was secured with chains in the parking lot of the Lexington affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. The Lexington Herald-Leader reported the cycle had been signed by several country stars, among them Taylor Swift, Tim McGraw and Dolly Parton. Employees of the charity noticed the trailer was missing on Monday and called police. Komen chapter Executive Director Penny Gilbert says the group had hoped to

raise about \$100,000 Oct. 16 by auctioning items including the donated motorcycle.

Waters: Band can rewrite Pink Floyd song as anthem

NEW YORK (AP)—Pink Floyd founder Roger Waters has no qualms about giving a Canadian band permission to tinker with his band's classic "Another Brick in the Wall" for use as an anthem for young Iranians. Toronto-based band Blurred Vision, fronted by two exiled Iranian brothers, has reworked the lyrics to express the resentment felt by young people toward the government of Iran, where it's illegal to play rock music. One well-known verse was changed to "Hey, Ayatollah, leave those kids alone!" Waters said he encourages artists to use the song to resist all forms of oppression. He said in a statement that he sees the band as playing a vital part in "the resistance to a regime that is both repressive and brutal." Waters took time from rehearsing for his upcoming world tour to address the issue.

Phylicia Rashad to take lead in Arena Stage debut

WASHINGTON (AP)—Phylicia Rashad will open Arena Stage's new Mead Center for American Theater this fall in Washington, starring in one of the inaugural productions. Rashad stars in the premiere of "Every Tongue

Confess" from playwright Marcus Gardley. It will run Nov. 9 through Jan. 2. Rashad is best known for her role as Clair Huxtable on the TV series "The Cosby Show." Also, E. Faye Butler will star as Aunt Eller in Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" It will run from Oct. 22 to Dec. 26. The initial casting was announced Tuesday. This year marks the inaugural reopening of Arena Stage after its extensive renovations since 2008. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama will be honorary chairs of the season.

'Spider-Man' musical sets a Broadway opening

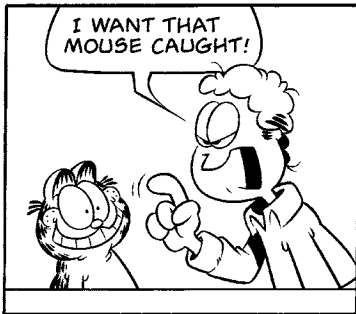
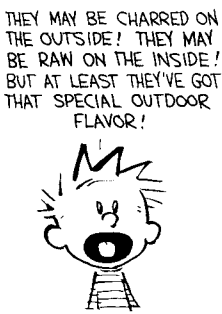
NEW YORK (AP)—Long hanging in limbo, the musical "Spider-Man Turn Off the Dark" is scheduled to spin its web later this year on Broadway. Lead producer Michael Cohl announced Tuesday that the much-anticipated show will begin preview performances on Nov. 14, with opening night set for Dec. 21. Its home will be the former Hilton Theatre, now renamed the Foxwoods Theatre. Based on the Marvel comic book hero, "Spider-Man" features music and lyrics by Bono and The Edge, with a book by its director, Julie Taymor, and Glen Berger. Destined to be one of the most expensive musicals in Broadway history, it has been in the works for six years and faced financial hurdles. At one point, it was scheduled to begin performances this past winter.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

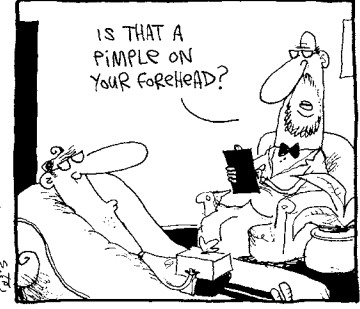
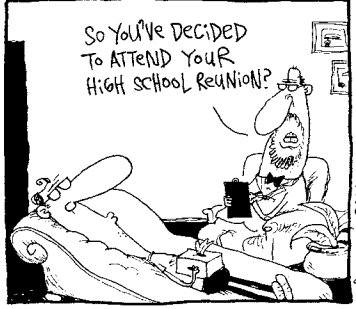
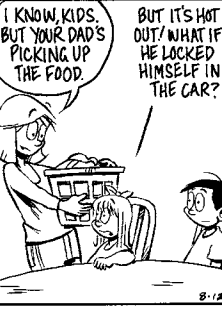
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 "Eureka!" 57 Simple 11 London 1 Rum 40 Piercing card 19 Mother 5 cake tool game 21 Lemieux 5 Ro-maine's industry 58 Dance move 45 Equine com-ments 24 Type measures 8 "Hey, you!" 49 Took of a Sales-man 25 Tear 12 Unyielding bus 26 Poisonous shrub 13 Hooter 50 Affirmative son 28 School's Web suffix 14 Blue hue action? 2 Met melody 15 Decree 52 Pennsylvan-ia port 3 Gravy vessel 29 Sachet 16 Grazing area 4 Shenanigans 31 Parched 30 Prior to 17 Litter's littlest 53 Basin access-ory 5 Sieve 37 High-lander's hat 18 Blue-beard's last wife 54 Prior night 7 Serb or Bulgar 38 Electrician's tool 20 Face 55 Astro-naut 8 Clergy-man 41 Lind-bergh book 22 Tuna Sally 9 Waste 42 Squad 23 Inmate 56 Cautious 10 Crooned 43 Davenport site 24 Cupid's alias 27 Relied (on) 32 Wire measure 33 Tokyo's old name 34 Mess up 35 Rainbow 38 Quarry

DOWN 1 "Death of a Sales-man" 2 Met melody 3 Gravy vessel 4 Shenanigans 5 Sieve 6 Have bills 7 Serb or Bulgar 8 Clergy-man 9 Waste 10 Crooned 11 London gallery 19 Mother 21 Lemieux milieu 24 Type measures 25 Tear 26 Poisonous shrub 28 School's Web suffix 29 Sachet 30 Prior to 31 Parched 36 Jovial 37 High-lander's hat 38 Electrician's tool 41 Lind-bergh book 42 Squad 43 Davenport site 44 Over again 46 Sand 47 Stash 48 Leak slowly 51 Eggs

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-12

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20 21

22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33 34

35 36 37 38

39 40 41

42 43 44 45 46 47 48

49 50 51 52

53 54 55

56 57 58

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rebecca Gayheart, 38; Pete Sampras, 39; Peter Krause, 45; Bruce Greenwood, 54

Happy Birthday: It's a good time to rethink your future. There will be surprise changes in your economic situation. Be willing to adapt so you can take full advantage of the positives in your life. It will be about weeding out, reorganization and realignment this year. Once your game plan is firm, it will be easy to execute. Your numbers are 8, 16, 19, 22, 24, 37, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Forget about dealing with red tape or institutions, authority or superiors at work. It will bring about added responsibility and changes that you will not want. Look for positive ways to move forward. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Network and share your ideas with experienced people who can offer worthwhile suggestions. You will make far greater mileage being amiable. An opportunity to get ahead with the help of someone you've worked with in the past is apparent. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be careful what you say to the people around you. If you aren't fair or you twist things around, you can expect to be questioned. Take action and show everyone what you are capable of and you will get a much better response for your effort. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Proceed with caution. There are negatives and positives to look out for regarding home

and family. An added burden is likely to cause upset but, if you talk matters through and share responsibilities, you can bypass turmoil. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): As much as you want to travel and have some fun, it will be important to take care of unfinished financial, legal and personal business first. You'll be surprised what you can accomplish if you speak to people you know have expertise in areas where you are lacking. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Money matters will take up your time. Overspending because you make a mistake or you didn't do your research will leave you short of cash and worried. Don't let anyone bully you. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep a secret well hidden. Uncertainty will develop regarding a job. Do your best work and you won't have anything to worry about. Someone jealous of your position or talent will try to make you look bad. Your effort and actions will help you get ahead. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Why are you afraid to move forward? Get on with your plans and stop making excuses. Eventually, all talk and no action will lead to a poor reputation and very little progress. You have more to offer than you realize. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put yourself and your talent on the line. You want to win fairly, by your own efforts, not by putting someone else down. Play by the rules or prepare to deal with trouble. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let someone stand in your way. Put business first and refuse to let emotional matters cloud your vision or lead you astray. Your direct approach will be welcomed by people with whom you deal. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's your innovative, entrepreneurial attitude that will save the day and turn a profit for you. Be original and you will attract interest. Keep things simple, moderate and user-friendly. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be questioning everything and everyone. There will be a fine line between doing what's required and going overboard. Keep things amicable and you'll avoid controversy, opposition and a fight you aren't likely to win. ***

Birthday Baby: You are creative, imaginative and innovative. You know instinctively how to take advantage of what's available to you.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

3 7

6 8 9 5

1 2 6 3

7 6

1 2 9 4

5 1 8 2

8 6 1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/12 ©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

4 2 7 5 6 8 1 3 9

5 3 9 2 4 1 8 6 7

6 1 8 9 7 3 5 4 2

2 9 4 3 5 7 6 1 8

7 8 6 1 2 4 3 9 5

1 5 3 8 9 6 7 2 4

3 7 1 4 8 2 9 5 6

9 6 2 7 3 5 4 8 1

8 4 5 6 1 9 2 7 3

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

IT'S SPECIAL Solution: 7 letters

L E E F E L I T E O U T F I T

P M R V L L A U D I V I D N I

E U E E I O D N T H E M E O T

L S H X L T W I D N A M E I N

C I T C T A C E N M T R T S E

I C O E E R T N R N A L A S M

H F T P P E A I I S E R D E O

E E R T I S P O O T T R K R M

V E A I T N P S R N S R P H

I T P O E P I L O D S I A M O

E O W N A N A O R U I H D I L

W N G A M E D E N E N N I N I

A F I L M T S T A T E D A P D

L O O H C S I N G U L A R P R

K N O I T A C A V I C T O R Y

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SALE: The types of 'Wonderword for Kids' appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, this book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Uclick, include \$3 postage for the first book order, \$1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-942-6480.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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Opening Date: Thursday, July 15, 2010 Closing Date: August 13, 2010

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions (s)	*Salary	Contract	Location
10-002-1	Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager (DM)	1	\$60,000 to \$75,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified	Two years	Water and Wastewater Division, Saipan
10-005-2	Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor Saipan) ("OS")	1	\$55,000 to \$ 65,000 per year; un-graded, un-classified	Two years	Wastewater Division, Saipan
10-029	Wastewater Treatment Level 2 Certified	2	\$35,000 To \$42,500 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Wastewater Division, Saipan
10-030	Wastewater Collection Level 2 Certified	2	\$35,000 To \$42,500 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Wastewater Division, Saipan
10-031	Water Treatment Level 1 Certified	1	\$30,000 To \$40,000 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Water Section, Rota
10-032	Water Distribution Level 2 Certified	1	\$35,000 To \$42,500 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Water Section, Rota

Opening Date: Thursday, July 20, 2010 Closing Date: August 19, 2010

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions (s)	*Salary	Contract	Location
10-038	Internal Auditor	1	\$30,000 To \$40,000 per year un-graded; un-classified	Two Years	Chief Financial Officer Division, Saipan

*For more information about the position (s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the human resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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Find today's solution in this section

Shaq's plan: 6 teams, 6 titles in 20 seasons



WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—When Shaquille O'Neal was much, much younger and a good deal smaller, too, he chose as a role model one of the most successful big men in NBA history.

"When I came into the league, I wanted to compete with Bill Russell for titles," O'Neal said Tuesday, with Russell's 11 championship banners hanging above him at a news conference to mark his signing with the Boston Celtics. "That's not going to happen, but I'd like to almost get half of what he got."

With four titles and a Hall of Fame career already on his resume, newly christened "Big Shamrock" signed a two-year deal with the Celtics at veteran's minimum, forgoing more lucrative offers to join the defending Eastern Conference champions for a run at another championship or two.

A crossover celebrity who has appeared in feature films and his own TV show, O'Neal joked about his new nickname, his fear that his kids will develop a Boston accent and trying to beat new teammate Glen "Big Baby" Davis in a chowder-eating contest.

But he was serious when he talked about his legacy.

"Do I have the same hunger? Yes. If I didn't, I wouldn't be here," O'Neal said. "I don't like wasting my time. I don't like wasting anybody's time. At the end of the day, when I close the book, it's all about winning."

The news conference to introduce O'Neal wasn't the usual type for a backup, 38-year-old center who will be paid about \$1.3 million a year. There were a dozen TV cameras, perhaps 50 reporters in all and a couple hundred beaming schoolchildren in the bleachers, taking a break from their basketball camp next door.

Also in the gym: Kevin Garnett, who promised O'Neal he would fly back from Hawaii to be there.

"To me this is a very exclusive event," said O'Neal, who wore a gray pinstriped suit and a black



Boston Celtics newly signed basketball player Shaquille O'Neal holds up his new jersey at a news conference on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2010, in Waltham, Mass.

bow tie. "It's my last (introductory) press conference. I just wanted to be very, very sharp."

The crowd was all there to see O'Neal the superstar, the former NBA MVP and four-time champion who is certain to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame down the road in Springfield whenever he decides he's had enough.

But the O'Neal the Celtics have signed is a much different player than the one who accu-

mulated those credentials.

Now weighing in at 345 pounds—he was 294 at LSU—O'Neal averaged 12 points and 6.7 rebounds for the Cavaliers last season, when he was brought to Cleveland in the hopes that he would be the missing piece that would help LeBron James win his elusive NBA title. He also missed almost two months of the regular season after injuring his thumb against the Celtics.

"I told him there won't be 30 minutes (for him) on this team; there will be 20-25," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "I asked him if that would be OK, because that's the only way it's going to work."

And it was OK with O'Neal, who hit the free agent market seeking a two-year deal worth a reported \$8 million to \$10 million a season. The Celtics expressed an interest—though not

at that price—and general manager Danny Ainge moved on to pursue other options.

As the summer wore on, though, O'Neal came around. Ainge said O'Neal's agent called and said, "Shaq would like to play there, and he's willing to come on your terms."

"I think Shaq's a guy who can still make a difference," Ainge told reporters in a conference call after the news conference. "When he was in his prime, he was considered one of the best who has ever played. Shaq coming to our team right now, our expectations won't be that. We expect him to contribute to our team and play a role off our bench."

But that can be a major contribution for a team that is without center Kendrick Perkins for at least half the season while he recovers from the knee injury he sustained during Game 6 of the NBA finals. Backup Rasheed Wallace retired, and the Celtics officially released him on Tuesday.

Boston signed Jermaine O'Neal, another reclamation project, and then added his more illustrious namesake. There won't be a problem with playing time until Perkins returns.

"Shaq still can do things that no other big man can," Rivers said. "You need size to win. We think we filled that void pretty well today."

The Celtics won their NBA-record 17th championship in 2008, then returned to the finals last year before losing to the Los Angeles Lakers in seven games. While the Miami Heat have rebuilt around Dwyane Wade, LeBron James and Chris Bosh, the Celtics have largely brought back the core of last season's team, re-signing Paul Pierce and Ray Allen to keep them alongside Garnett and point guard Rajon Rondo.

"I realize I only have 730 days left in this game. I just wanted to be with a group of guys that like to win," O'Neal said. "This was a good team with or without me. I don't mind playing a role. I know where I am at this point in my career. It's about coming to a team that is one or two pieces from a championship."

Source: Pistons, McGrady agree to 1-year deal

DETROIT (AP)—Tracy McGrady is getting a chance to rejuvenate his career with a team hoping for a rebound of its own. McGrady and the Detroit Pistons have agreed to a \$1.3 million, one-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the deal hasn't been announced.

McGrady, a seven-time All-Star and two-time scoring champion, has played just 65 games the past two seasons with Houston and New York because he had major surgery on his left knee in the middle of the 2008-09 season.

The 6-foot-8 wing drew some interest from teams this summer, including the Chicago Bulls, before choosing to play for Detroit.

Now, the Pistons might have a greater sense of urgency to trade Richard Hamilton or Tayshaun Prince to fix their logjam on the perimeter.

The 31-year-old McGrady averaged 8.2 points last season, his lowest-scoring season since 1997-98 when he was a rookie with the Toronto Raptors after skipping college. Just two years ago, though, he averaged 21-plus points for the eighth time in his career.

If McGrady accepts his role, likely as a reserve, he could prove to be a bargain playing for the veteran's minimum even if he doesn't approach his career scoring average of 21.5 points.

"I've made a lot of money over my career and I could retire right now and I could be fine financially," McGrady said in February after he was traded by the Rockets to the Knicks while making \$23 million in the last year of his contract. "My kids can be fine when they get older. Money is not an issue for me."

McGrady, who is from Bartow, Fla., was drafted No. 9 overall in the 1997 draft by Toronto. He went to Orlando in a sign-and-trade deal in 2000 and was dealt four years later to Houston.

His last healthy season was five years ago. He missed 34 games during the 2005-06 season with back problems, elbow and knee injuries led to him missing 16 games two years later and microfracture surgery put his career in jeopardy about 1 1/2 years ago.

If he's relatively healthy, happy and effective for the Pistons, McGrady will provide a boost for a team that missed the playoffs this year for the first time since 2001 with its worst record since 1995.

Knicks' D'Antoni OK with Isiah role, Coach K would pass

NEW YORK (AP)—Mike D'Antoni sounds OK with it. Mike Krzyzewski wouldn't do it.

Isiah Thomas' return to the New York Knicks as a consultant while still coaching a college team has raised plenty of questions—starting with whether it's even legal.

D'Antoni, who became the Knicks' coach after Thomas was fired two years ago, said Tuesday his predecessor could provide an advantage for the organization and he supported bringing him back on as long as team president Donnie Walsh approved.

"I'm sure that Isiah has a lot to offer. Donnie will call on if he needs it and be in consult," D'Antoni said.

Thomas had a similar role after he was fired as general manager and coach in 2008. However, he has since become coach of Florida International, which is where the conflict could arise.

Krzyzewski, the Hall of Fame coach of Duke and the U.S. national team, would decline a similar position because he believes college and NBA jobs should be separate.

"I would decline to do that just because I shouldn't be perceived to have an advantage in whatever way over another college coach, so that's why I wouldn't do it," he said after the Americans practiced. "I don't think there's anything ethically wrong with it or whatever,

I just think that it's probably better to keep it separate."

The NBA is reviewing the agreement to see if it violates league rules, which prevent team officials from having contact with players who aren't yet eligible for the draft.

"Have we served as consultants to the pros? Yeah," Krzyzewski said. "People call us before the draft, 'What do think of this, what do you think of that?' I think it's better to have it like that."

The Knicks have taken a beating since announcing Thomas' return Friday by people who recall how badly his tenure at Madison Square Garden was. Thomas started as team president in December 2003, and the Knicks never won

a playoff game under his watch despite always having one of the league's highest payrolls.

Plus, a sexual harassment lawsuit brought against Thomas and the organization by former team employee Anucha Browne Sanders also cost MSG \$11.6 million.

But Thomas still has a good reputation among younger NBA players who remember his Hall of Fame playing career in Detroit. The Knicks think that can help them, and even called upon Thomas in their recruitment of LeBron James.

"Donnie is very smart to be able to tap into it when he needs it, and if it's an advantage to the Knicks then we'll use it," D'Antoni said.

But D'Antoni, who was

coaching Phoenix during Thomas' tenure in New York, understands why many are so confused by the Knicks' decision to bring Thomas back. There have been reports that Walsh was against the move, and speculation that Thomas will eventually get a bigger role in the organization - perhaps even his old one.

"The only thing is, it does get a life of its own and it's not going to change what Donnie does, what he has done and how good he has done it," D'Antoni said. "And again, if it can help us, which I think in certain areas it can, then we will use that and so there's no negatives to it other than it created a story with (the media)."

Lowell hits go-ahead homer as Red Sox beat Jays



**T O -
R O N T O**
(A P) —
M i k e

Lowell hit a go-ahead home run in the eighth inning as the Boston Red Sox beat the Toronto Blue Jays 7-5 on Tuesday.

J.D. Drew added a solo shot as the Red Sox improved to 8-2 against the Blue Jays this season. Boston has won eight of its past 11 on the road.

Jose Bautista hit his major-league-leading 35th home run for the Blue Jays, while Travis Snider hit a three-run shot and Adam Lind added a solo blast. Toronto leads the majors with 178 homers this season, 29 more than Boston, who are second with 149.

Felix Doubront (2-2) pitched 1 1-3 innings for the win while Shawn Camp (3-2) took the loss.

Twins 12, White Sox 6

At Chicago, Jim Thome hit his 579th homer and Joe Mauer had three more hits as Minnesota took sole possession of the American League Central lead by beating Chicago.

They pounded out five homers, starting with Thome's drive to left-center on the first pitch of the second to kick off a four-run burst against his former team.

J.J. Hardy and Mauer each went deep against Freddy Garcia (10-5) in the inning to make it 5-0, and the Twins pulled away after Chicago's Carlos Quentin hit a three-run shot off Scott Baker (10-9) in the bottom half.

Rays 8, Tigers 0

At Detroit, Jeremy Hellickson gave up three hits and struck out seven, without walking a batter, over seven innings as Tampa Bay blanked Detroit.

Hellickson (2-0) was making his second major league start after being recalled from the minor leagues for the second time this month.

Joaquin Benoit pitched the eighth and Mike Ekstrom the ninth to complete the four-hitter.

Max Scherzer (7-9), the opposing pitcher when the Rays' Matt Garza no-hit the Tigers in Tampa Bay on July 26, was the loser.

Orioles 14, Indians 8

At Cleveland, Felix Pie hit the first of four home runs by Baltimore as the Orioles beat Cleveland in Buck Showalter's first road game since taking over as manager.



Boston Red Sox's Mike Lowell hits a solo home run during eighth inning baseball action against the Toronto Blue Jays in Toronto Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2010.

Pie's three-run drive over the center-field wall off Justin Masterson (4-11) with two outs in the fifth inning gave Baltimore a 7-6 lead. It came after Arrieta fell behind 6-4 by allowing five runs in the bottom of the fourth after the Orioles had taken a 4-1 lead with four runs in the top half.

Corey Patterson hit a solo homer in the sixth, then Matt Wieters had a two-run shot and Luke Scott another three-run drive during the Orioles' six-run eighth.

Rangers 4, Yankees 3, 10 innings

At Arlington, Texas, David Murphy's single with the bases loaded in the 10th inning off Mariano Rivera gave AL West-leading Texas a victory over New York in a matchup of division leaders.

Murphy, who had a two-run homer in the game, was mobbed by his teammates after rounding first base with his game-winning hit.

Michael Young led off the 10th with an infield single off Rivera (3-2), beating Derek Jeter's throw after the shortstop made a backhanded stop deep in the hole, and scored the winning run.

Angels 3, Royals 1

At Anaheim, California, Dan Haren ended a career-long 10-game winless skid with his first victory for Los Angeles in a win

over Kansas City.

Peter Bourjos drove in the go-ahead run with a suicide squeeze bunt in the fifth inning as the Angels won four of their last five after going 2-8 in their previous 10 games.

Haren (1-2) allowed five hits and one run in seven innings to win in his fourth start with the Angels, whom he joined on July 25 in a trade from Arizona. It was his first win since June 12 against St. Louis.

Mariners 2, Athletics 0

At Seattle, Felix Hernandez scattered five hits over eight innings and struck out a career-high 13 to lead Seattle past Oakland.

David Aardsma took over in the ninth for Hernandez (8-9), who threw 110 pitches. He picked up his 22nd save in 26 opportunities.

The Mariners scored a run in the sixth off starter Brett Anderson (3-3) on an RBI single by Casey Kotchman.

Seattle added a run in the eighth off Craig Breslow when Gutierrez lofted an RBI single to shallow left.

It was the sixth shutout for the Mariners and the fifth time the A's have been shut out.

Marlins 8, Nationals 2

At Washington, Stephen Strasburg allowed a career-high six earned runs in a career-low 4 1-3 innings as his Nationals lost to Florida.

Dan Uggla drove in four runs with a homer and a double, and Hanley Ramirez hit two of his three doubles off Strasburg (5-3), whose ERA rose from 2.32 to 3.07. The No. 1 overall pick in the 2009 amateur draft had not allowed more than three earned runs or lasted fewer than five innings in any of his previous nine major league games.

Anibal Sanchez (9-7) went 6 2-3 innings and both runs he was responsible for were unearned. He allowed five hits and had seven strikeouts.

Strasburg hadn't pitched since a victory at Cincinnati on July 21.

Dodgers 15, Phillies 9

At Philadelphia, Andre Ethier had four hits, scored four runs and reached base six times, and Casey Blake and Jay Gibbons hit home runs for Los Angeles.

The Dodgers had 18 hits, eight off starter Kyle Kendrick (7-5), who lasted only 3 1-3 innings. The top four hitters in the batting order—Scott Podsednik, Ryan Theriot, Ethier and James Loney — had 11 hits and scored 11 runs.

Vicente Padilla (6-3) allowed four runs and six hits in five innings.

Cubs 8, Giants 6

At San Francisco, Starlin Castro drove in three runs and Kosuke Fukudome homered as Chicago battered San Francisco pitcher

Tim Lincecum.

Ryan Dempster (10-8) pitched into the seventh inning for his second straight win while Aramis Ramirez added three hits for Chicago, which ended a season-high six-game losing streak on the road. It was only the Cubs' third win in their last 15 games.

Lincecum (11-6), the two-time reigning NL Cy Young winner, lasted just four innings and gave up six runs, including Fukudome's two-run homer in the first. Over his last five starts San Francisco's ace is 1-2 with a 5.40 ERA.

Castro had an RBI single in the first then hit a bases-loaded single in the fourth to drive in two more.

Mets 1, Rockies 0

At New York, Mike Pelfrey outpitched Ubaldo Jimenez for seven innings, and Jose Reyes hit a sacrifice fly to help New York kick off a crucial homestand.

The Mets moved back to .500 with a much-needed win after returning from a road trip containing two wins and four losses against division rivals that helped drop them 8½ games behind Atlanta in the NL East.

Pelfrey (11-6) went seven innings for the first time since June 19, and gave up four hits. He struck out four and walked one while throwing a career-high 122 pitches.

The Rockies, who had only one runner reach third base, have won only twice in their last 11 road games.

Cardinals 8, Reds 4

At Cincinnati, St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina and Cincinnati second baseman Brandon Phillips sparked a benches-clearing fight in the first innings before the Cardinals recovered to win and move back into first place in the NL Central.

Molina hit a solo homer and a sacrifice fly off Johnny Cueto (11-3), who got shoved against the backstop screen and furiously kicked several Cardinals during the altercation. Both managers were ejected, but no players.

Matt Holliday broke the game open with a bases-loaded single in the seventh, one of his four hits.

Rookie left-hander Jaime Garcia (10-5) beat the Reds for the third time this season, giving up four runs in 5 1-3 innings.

Braves 4, Astros 2

At Houston, Brooks Conrad's

two-run homer in the ninth inning gave Atlanta the win.

The Braves were trailing 2-1 after the Astros scored two runs in the eighth inning off Atlanta errors before Conrad's shot to right field off Houston closer Matt Lindstrom (2-3).

Alex Gonzalez singled to set up Conrad's go-ahead shot. Conrad entered the game in the bottom of the sixth inning to replace Chipper Jones, who sprained his left knee.

Troy Glaus added a solo homer in the ninth and also drove in Atlanta's first run in the seventh inning.

Jonny Venters (4-0) got the win after striking out Jason Michaels to end the eighth inning and Billy Wagner pitched a perfect ninth for his 28th save.

Diamondbacks 2, Brewers 1

At Milwaukee, Miguel Montero hit a home run to lead off the eighth inning and lift Arizona to the victory.

Montero reached down and drove a first-pitch slider from reliever Chris Capuano (1-2) to deep center for his fifth home run of the season.

Capuano fell to 0-2 in 12 relief appearances this season. Before this season, he had not pitched in the majors since Sept. 28, 2007. He had his second Tommy John surgery in May 2008.

Blaine Boyer (3-2) pitched two scoreless innings and Sam Demel earned his first career save.

Rookie Barry Enright allowed one run and three hits over six innings and retired 13 of his last 16 batters for Arizona. He struck out two and walked two.

Padres 4, Pirates 1

At San Diego, Ryan Ludwick hit his first two homers with San Diego to reach 100 for his career in a win over Pittsburgh.

San Diego's Wade LeBlanc (6-10) tied his career-high with eight strikeouts to win for just the second time in six starts. He allowed one run and five hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Pittsburgh's Jeff Karstens (2-8), making his first start in his hometown, lost his sixth straight decision. He allowed two runs and three hits in six innings.

Ludwick, acquired from St. Louis in a three-team trade on July 31, homered in the second and the seventh, his 12th and 13th this season.

Prognosis good after Mickelson reveals arthritis



SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP)—Forget chasing the No. 1 ranking. Phil Mickelson was more worried about being able to get out of bed.

Mickelson revealed Tuesday he has psoriatic arthritis, which causes his immune system to attack his joints and tendons and produced such intense pain he couldn't walk. He noticed the first symptoms five days be-

fore the U.S. Open, and the pain eventually got so bad he made a visit to the Mayo Clinic.

Weekly shots have brought the disease under control, and Mickelson said there shouldn't be any negative impact on his long- or even short-term health.

"I'm surprised at how quickly it's gone away, and how quickly it's been able to be managed and controlled," he said. "I feel 100 percent, like I

say. But when I'm laying there on the couch and I can't move, you know, yeah, I had some concerns. But I feel a lot better now."


As if that bombshell wasn't enough for the day, Lefty dropped another one: the burger connoisseur is now a vegetarian.

"I know, I know," he said as reporters laughed. "As long as I believe that there's a possibility that it will help me overall, yeah, I'll continue to do

that. If it will somehow keep this in remission or stop it from coming back, yeah, I'll be able to do it. But I haven't been put it to the real test. The real test is driving by a Five Guys and not stopping."

Mickelson has been threatening to replace Tiger Woods as world No. 1 since The Players Championship in early May, only to stumble at each opportunity. That's led many to wonder what's ailing him, particularly after his lackluster round Sunday at Firestone, where he made seven bogeys and a double-bogey—and just one birdie—on his way to a 78.

SIP-Mobil, Cabalen-Wings Travel remain undefeated

 SIP-Mobil and Cabalen-Wings Travel remain undefeated in their respective divisions as the United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League returned to action Tuesday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Playing in the nightcap, Mobil wiggled out from tight first three quarters to rout winless Bartenders-Islands Apparel, 105-83, in the open division. It was SIP's second win in the young season.

Burly center Rex Yabut actually helped Bartenders to an early 21-18 lead after scoring 10 markers in the first quarter.

But the whippet-quick backcourt of Jun Estolas and Pando Muleta combined for 14 points in the second stanza to stake Mobil to a 42-40 lead at the break.

Former national player Marvin Rabauliman and Manolo Manalo then pumped in seven points apiece in the third, even as five other Mobil players made it to the scoreboard, to give their team a 12-point advantage, 72-60, going into the fourth quarter.

Bartenders' high-leaping guard Manuel Matagolai scored six of his 16 points in the pay-off period, but Errol Peredo and Marlon De Dios countered with 11 of their own as the Mobil-backed SIP coasted to the 22-point win.

Estolas paced SIP with 22 markers and seven assists, while



SIP-Mobil guard Pando Muleta scoots in for two of his 15 points during his team's 105-83 win against Bartenders-Islands Apparel in the open division of the UFO caging Thursday night at the J.P. Center Basketball Court. Right, Tony Diaz of Cabalen-Wings Travel leaks out for an uncontested layup in their game against Laguna-Moonlight in the UFO caging masters division.

Rabauliman and Muleta added 15 markers apiece. Yabut finished with a double-double for Bartenders (0-2) with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

Earlier, Cabalen-Wings Travel took full use of its height advantage to down Laguna-Moonlight, 92-72, in the masters division.

Edsel Mendoza (20 points, 12 rebounds), Junar Guiab (15 points, 14 rebounds), and Edwin Santos (12 points, 15 re-

bounds) all finished in double figure in points and rebounds for the now 2-0 squad.

The three big men's 41 total rebounds alone almost equaled Laguna's 45 team rebounds. Wings Travel wound up with a whopping 59 caroms in the game.

Joseph Galulu led Laguna (0-1) with 22 points, while ageless Warren Villegas chipped in 13.

The UFO caging also played games Saturday with Visminda-



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kids Cove improving to 2-0 in the masters category following a 94-89 tightrope win against MDX-Monster Energy Drink.

In the second game, Cavite leveled its record to 1-1 after feasting on SIS-Marianas Wireless, 90-82. It was Marianas Wireless' second loss in as many starts in the open division.

SATURDAY First Game Visminda 94 – Villarin 21,

Another swimmer took home the Female Athlete award with Pohnpei's Debra Daniel earning the judges' nod after claiming seven gold medals.

Pohnpei Lt. Gov. Churchill B. Edward received the award on behalf of Daniel.

CNMI sprinter Yvonne Bennett was among the female athletes nominated for the top performer award. Bennett reigned in the 100m, 200m, and 400m races in the Games and anchored the CNMI's first place wins in the 4x400m and 4x100 relay runs.

in the finals.

The team of Lucelle Lampera and Cheng Saturno took third after an 18-21, 21-16, 21-15 win against Marlene Peraja and Lani Bartolome.

Choi then partnered with Lee So Young to take out Peraja and Annette Quiambao, 21-11, 21-13, in a lopsided finale in the women's doubles BC.

Elna Curate and Malou Mendoza earned runner-up honors with a 21-14, 21-18 win against Loida Ito and Boh Ranah Kim.

Quiambao and Heo In Sook took charge in the women's doubles C, claiming the championship following a 16-21, 21-14, 21-11 victory over Curate and Merlie Tolentino. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Alipio 17, Abedes 13, Abuy 13, Cosino 12, Montano 8, De La Torre 4, Ocampo 4, Bicara 3.

MDX 89 – De Guzman 21, Tabora 21, Sabino 20, J. Garon 14, Lansang 10, Ebuen 9, Tobias 2, Babauta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-26, 42-39, 70-65, 94-89.

Second Game

Cavite 90 – Barrios 20, Vilacrusis 17, Opone 13, Montano 11, Rebuyon 11, Wesley 6, Artates 6, Hernandez 4, Mateo 2.

SIS 82 – Galarce 19, Diaz 14, Moises 13, Jugos 9, Banatasa 5, Quemado 4, Wodson 4, Iglesias 2, Doronila 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-15, 46-38, 68-55, 90-82.

TUESDAY First Game

Cabalen 92 – Mendoza 20,

Guiab 15, Diaz 14, Santos 12, Yalung 6, Olivos 6, Fernandez 5, Aguilar 4, Berline 4, Valencia 3, Tamondong 3.

Laguna 72 – Galulu 22, Villegas 13, Lopez 7, Palacios 6, Darag 6, Pablo 4, Bugay 4, Pacheco 4, Illahi 4, Tipples 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-16, 46-41, 68-56, 92-72.

Second Game

SIP 105 – Estolas 22, Rabauliman 15, Muleta 15, Manolo 11, De Guzman 11, Gamboa 8, De Dios 7, Peredo 6, Gapor 4.

Bartenders 83 – Yabut 17, Matagolai 16, Mina 11, Abuy 7, Achas 7, Irinaka 5, Mendiola 4, Tengco 4, Sablan 2, Cabrera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-21, 42-40, 72-60, 105-83. *(Saipan Tribune)*

3 SPORTS

From Page 28

petitions could be set and teams can be sent to the next Games.

The council acknowledged that soccer is one of the top sports being played today and its popularity has been growing in the CNMI, Guam, Pohnpei, and the Marshall Islands

Guam has the Guam Football Association running the sport and GFA has been sending teams to various off-island competitions. GFA is a member of Asian Football Confederation, FIFA, and East Asian Football Federation.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is the governing body in soccer in the CNMI and NMIFA has also been fielding squads in various tournaments. NMIFA is an EAFF member and association AFC member.

The Marshall Islands and Pohnpei have no mother organizations

affiliated with international federations, but they have several soccer clubs and the sport is also drawing attention from students and community members from the two island-nations.

Archery is still being played in Guam, Palau, the Marshall Islands, and some states in FSM, while mixed martial artists from the region are also active in taekwondo, which like wrestling offers a lot of medals due to its different weight divisions.

The addition of sports in the calendar of events for the Micronesian Games was one of the several changes to the MGC charter that were discussed and approved at the council meeting last weekend.

The sports that are regularly played in the Micro Games are basketball, athletics, baseball, swimming, indoor volleyball, wrestling, weightlifting, softball, Micro All-around, outrigger canoe, lawn tennis, table tennis, and spearfishing.

WONG

From Page 28

logo was given to the top performers of the Games and receiving the award on behalf of Wong was CNMI chef de mission Michael A. White. Palau President Johnson Toribiong handed out the paddle to White in a brief presentation last Tuesday.

Wong led the CNMI's gold medal rush in the swimming competition and his 13 gold medals were the most earned by an individual athlete in

the Games.

At the start of the swimming competition, Wong won three individual gold medals and then powered the CNMI to victories in two relay races. The 19-year-old swimmer took his first gold medal via a win in the 200m individual medley, his favorite event, and then went on to rule the 200m breaststroke and 100m butterfly swims. Wong joined the CNMI team in relays and the group won the 4x50m medley relay and 4x200m freestyle relay.

In the second day of the com-

petition in the pool in Meyuns, Wong scooped two more individual medals, topping the 200m butterfly and 100m freestyle, and then lifted the CNMI to a first place finish in the 400m freestyle relay.

Wong also handed the CNMI the gold medal in the 400m medley relay, 100m breaststroke, 50m butterfly, and 400m individual medley. He then capped his awesome run in the swimming competition with a first place finish in the 5-kilometer ocean swim in the waters off Palau Pacific Resort.

In the men's doubles B, Santos and Aries Cordero won the finals via default against Mario Diola and Vic Regis. Maratas and Jorge Olanda salvaged third place following a 21-16, 21-5 victory over Arago and Savellano.

Manatsu Omori got the better of brother Kanata Omori when he teamed up with Chris Hilario to beat Kanata and Puy Macario, 21-14, 21-13, in the men's doubles C finals.

Gigi Zapanta and Hannah Choi reaffirmed their dominance in the women's doubles B, completing an undefeated season following a 21-14, 21-17 victory against Annarose Omori and Michelle Calleon

lowing their loss against them in the elimination round. That defeat was the only smudge in Gabriel and Bulaon's otherwise spotless record in the tourney.

In the battle for third, Ferdie Arago and Edwin Montoya prevailed 21-0, 21-18 against Saul Gargallo and Macoi Aguda.

Bulaon then collected his second championship of the tourney when he teamed up with Noli Santos to take the men's doubles AB crown. The duo took the title at the expense of Arago and Jojo Savellano, 21-16, 21-15.

Gabriel and Manatsu Omori then triumphed over Montoya and Edwin Maratas, 21-16, 22-20, to win third place.

BADMINTON

From Page 28

set, 18-21, against their erstwhile undefeated opponents.

But after adopting a different strategy, the duo finally broke through Guinto and Galvez's defense and took the second set, 21-16.

Mixing it up more in the third set, Bulaon and Gabriel began to really hit their stride in the deciding third set and won it 21-15 to take the championship.

Gabriel said they owe the victory to good teamwork and conditioning. He said they were eager to show Guinto and Galvez that they've improved a lot fol-

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	69	43	.616	—
Tampa Bay	69	44	.611	1/2
Boston	65	49	.570	5
Toronto	59	53	.527	10
Baltimore	39	74	.345	30 1/2
Central Division				
Minnesota	64	49	.566	—
Chicago	63	50	.558	1
Detroit	54	59	.478	10
Cleveland	47	66	.416	17
Kansas City	47	66	.416	17
West Division				
Texas	65	47	.580	—
Los Angeles	58	57	.504	8 1/2
Oakland	56	56	.500	9
Seattle	44	70	.386	22
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Atlanta	65	48	.575	—
Philadelphia	62	50	.554	2 1/2
New York	56	56	.500	8 1/2
Florida	55	56	.495	9
Washington	49	64	.434	16
Central Division				
St. Louis	63	49	.563	—
Cincinnati	64	50	.561	—
Milwaukee	53	61	.465	11
Houston	48	64	.429	15
Chicago	48	65	.425	15 1/2
Pittsburgh	39	73	.348	24
West Division				
San Diego	65	46	.586	—
San Francisco	64	50	.561	2 1/2
Los Angeles	59	54	.522	7
Colorado	58	54	.518	7 1/2
Arizona	45	69	.395	21 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 3				
Houston 10, Atlanta 4				
Florida 8, Washington 2				
L.A. Dodgers 15, Philadelphia 9				
N.Y. Mets 1, Colorado 0				
St. Louis 8, Cincinnati 4				
Atlanta 4, Houston 2				
Arizona 2, Milwaukee 1				
San Diego 4, Pittsburgh 1				
Chicago Cubs 8, San Francisco 6				
Baltimore 14, Cleveland 8				
Tampa Bay 8, Detroit 0				
Boston 7, Toronto 5				
Texas 4, N.Y. Yankees 3, 10 innings				
Minnesota 12, Chicago White Sox 6				
L.A. Angels 3, Kansas City 1				
Seattle 2, Oakland 0				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

7th Micro Games Closing Ceremony

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Palau President Johnson Toribiong addresses the crowd during the closing ceremony for the 7th Micronesian Games at the Palau National Track and Field last Tuesday night.



The CNMI and Palau baseball teams pose for a group photo after the closing ceremony.



Palau athletes pose for a group photo with their medals during the closing ceremony.



CNMI athletes listen to the closing remarks of Palau President Johnson Toribiong.



CNMI chef de mission Michael White hoists the paddle awarded to Male Top Athlete of the Micronesian Games Rezne Wong.



Flag bearers at the closing ceremony for the 7th Micronesian Games round the oval of the Palau National Track and Field last Tuesday night in Koror, Palau.

Pohnpei Lt. Gov. Churchill B. Edward, left, receives the Micronesian Games flag from Micronesian Games Council president Bill Keldermans during the turn-over ceremony for the hosting rights of the 2014 Micronesian Games.



Athletes march their way to the oval to start the closing ceremony of the 7th Micronesian Games at the Palau National Track and Field last Tuesday night in Koror, Palau.



Athletics and basketball's Jacque Wonenberg was the CNMI's flag bearer during the closing ceremony.



A Palau athlete carries the flame of the Micronesian Games out of the Palau National Track and Field last Tuesday night, signaling the conclusion of the 10-day event.



Lowell hits go-ahead homer as Red Sox beat Jays

25

Saipan Tribune Sports

Shaq's plan: 6 teams, 6 titles in 20 seasons



24

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2010

Wong named top athlete in Micro Games



Rezne Wong swims in the 100m butterfly race in the 7th Micronesian Games last week at the Palau National Swimming Pool in Meyuns, Palau. Inset, Palau President Johnson Toribiong, left, congratulates CNMI chef de mission Michael White, who received the 7th Micronesian Games Male Athlete award on behalf of Wong during the closing ceremony Tuesday night at the Palau National Track and Field.

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REPORTER

KOROR, Palau—The CNMI's Rezne Wong won the Male Top Athlete award in the 7th Micronesian Games here.

Wong's selection as one of two top athletes in the 10-day sports event was announced during the closing ceremony of the Games Tuesday night at the Palau National Track and Field.

"Tia de Preril"



The CNMI swimmer was selected for the coveted award from among the more than 1,000 athletes from seven island-nations after winning 13 gold medals and one silver in the Micro Games.

Unfortunately, Wong could not make it to the awards presentation, as he and the rest of the CNMI swimming team left Palau on Aug. 6 after the four-day competition at the Palau National Swimming Pool.

A paddle designed with the 2010 Micronesian Games

See **WONG** on Page 26

3 sports added to Micro Games calendar

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KOROR, Palau—The Micronesian Games Council has approved the addition of three sports to the calendar of events for the Micronesian Games.

During the MGC meeting at the conference room of the Palau National Aquarium last Sunday, a consensus was reached to include archery, taekwondo, and soccer to the list of events that may be played in the quadrennial event. However, it will still depend on the host nation and the council to decide if these sports will be lined up for the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

The council hopes that if there are at least four island-nations committed to send athletes to these sports, then com-

See 3 SPORTS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and officials of the Micronesian Games Council pose for a group photo after their meeting last week in Koror, Palau.

Badminton doubles champions crowned

After close to a month of competition, games in the Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Competition 2010 concluded over the weekend with champions



crowned at the REM

Center in Gualo Rai.

The showcase men's double AA division saw reigning Northern Marianas Badminton Association singles champi-



on Rey Bulaon team up with vastly improved Hapi Gabriel to defeat top seed Dick Guinto and Andreau Galvez.

Bulaon and Gabriel actually had to work double time after losing the first

See **BADMINTON** on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rey Bulaon and Hapi Gabriel, left, pose with Macoi Aguda and Saul Gargallo before their playoff game in the Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Competition 2010 last weekend at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

IT&E Life in Motion				
7 th Micro Games MEDAL TALLY				
Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Palau	54	44	30	128
CNMI	44	23	25	92
Guam	20	25	21	66
Marshall's	19	18	19	56
Yap	13	11	15	39
Pohnpei	12	15	19	46
Chuuk	8	7	8	23
Kosrae	0	0	12	12